Sunday, August 9, 2009 • 12 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 342 ₱20

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE WEEK THAT WAS. The pink-and-yellow curtain images have been moved into the nation's memory chest as a parade of flowers, yellow clothes, ribbons, flowers, candles, stitched cloth, the rosary and people, people everywhere, under the haze of the sun of Tarlac were unending in line for hours just to catch a glimpse of Cory C. Aquino. They were gripped by a sense of loss, yes, but there was much gratitude and love along with it, too. Last Saturday, she joined her husband in the quietness of heroes. The week just passed was the first ever after the Philippines lost the national treasure we were deeply called Cory.
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION FOTH KOT COBAR-BRO./ARTWORK BY LYNETT VILLAMIN

GMA dined for ₱1 M in NY

Critics: 'Lavish' meal leaves bad taste in the mouth

By TJ Burgonio and Alexis Pape

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO AND HER PARTY racked up a dinner bill of close to P1 million at a ritzy New York restaurant during her recent trip to the United States.

And the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) is demanding an explanation.

Quoting from an Aug. 7 online story of the New York Post, Bayan said Ms Arroyo and her entourage dined at Le Cirque restaurant, consuming $20,000 worth of food and wine. (See In the Know on Page A.11.)

"Malacañang has a lot of explaining to do about this latest allegation which came out in an American paper. Who spent for the lavish dinner?" Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

In a statement issued yesterday Hubert Moyer and United Opposition president Aquiatar Ruiz said: "How like Mrs. Arroyo and her administration can justly blowing P960,000 for din-

CON. A11

Viel keeps Fatima rosary, sisters agree

By Julie M. Aurelio

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE rosary of the late President Corazon Aquino given to her by Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last seer of Fatima?

Before Aquino died, her five children discussed who among them should keep the rosary, that was handmade by Sister Lucia and given to the late President through Cardinal Sin.

In past interviews, Aquino herself had said the rosary helped her survive seven coup attempts against her administration.

During her ordeal with colon cancer, the rosary never left Aquino's hands, said Fr Catalino Arevalo, in his homily at the Requiem Mass on Wednesday.

Aquino "died holding the Fatima rosary which Sister Lucia gave her many years ago," according to Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

Before Aquino's death, her youngest

VIEL KEEPS, A4

HE'S THE MAN

Why Noynoy is not married

By Thelma Sioson San Juan
Lifestyle Editor

IT IS SAID THAT ANY WOMAN WHO marries Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is marrying not just the man but also national destiny.

"Remember what Joshua said, Never get married."

In the sadness and grief that gripped the Manila Cathedral and the rest of the country, the admonition of Kris Aquino to her older and only brother Noynoy floated like mist to cool the atmosphere and lend it mirth.

The senator's expression was, as usual, plain and inscrutable—he's never really been camera-ready; he is either print or TV and surely not at this moment, when he was about to lay to rest the person around which his life had revolved.

The only son former President Cory Aquino left behind has lived in the public eye since his father, the political martyr Benigno Aquino Jr., was assassinated in 1983. As Aquino III, he has been a three-term congressman and is now a senator. Yet while he's been candid, even chatty, in interviews, he's never really honed his private self—he has never, to use a Jackie O term, "disenfeebled" himself to public in this era of celebrityhood.

WWW.NOYNOY LIFESTYLE, D.1

EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE UNCLE Sorry, Josh, he's now seeing a very pretty girl.

Driving Cory an honor; ₱400 pay OK

By Marlon Ramos

FOR NINE HOURS, JERRY ORBIGO bore the tedious task of driving the flatbed truck that brought the flag-draped casket of the late former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino from Manila Cathedral to her final resting place at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Wednesday, with no complaints.

The driver was also behind the wheel of the Rover-backhoe truck that transferred Aquino's coffin on Monday from La Salle Green Hills in Mandaluyong City to Intramuros so it were through the streets of Metro Manila for a good seven hours.

"I will never forget those two days when I had the privilege to serve the most loved woman in the Philippines," said Orbigo, a professional truck driver for the last 20 years.

Those were the most physically challenging assignments he had ever undertaken, according to the 53-year-old former marine.

"It would be nice to tell them stories

DRIVING CORY, A4

Cory family 'stays on the bus,' forget about us

By Fe Zamora

LIKE MOST FAMILY THAT JUST LOST a loved one, the children of the late President Corazon Aquino joked about the possibility of ghosts visiting the old house.

Inside the bus that followed their mother to her final resting place at Manila Memorial on Wednesday there was plenty of time for catching up with family history around and telling ghost stories. Dojiroi was one of a handful of media organizations that joined the Aquinos in the bus.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, a bachelor and doting uncle to eight nephews and nieces, turned to 14-year-old Josh, his sister Kris' son with actor Phillip Salvador.

"Josh, will you sleep with me over at Times Street?" he asked the boy. "Let's go meet some ghosts there," he added, with a wink. (Cory Aquino lived in an unpretentious bungalow on Times Street, West Triangle in Quezon City until the time of her death.)

Joshua nodded and replied: "Okay, I will sleep there."

Then someone added: "But promise you won't get married, 'Tito Noy!'"

That set off a wave of laughter that rocked the bus.

A healthy dose of humor, Christian values, deep friendships, and the love

CORY FAMILY, A4

UK envoy, wife bid farewell, but not goodbye

By Sunshine Lichauco de Leon
Correspondent

FOR RENE, 17, THE CHANCE TO SING "Make Me Serve" was a rare opportunity to give something back to British Ambassador Peter Beckingham and his wife, Jill.

This dedicated couple had worked tirelessly to help uplift the lives of 400 students attending the PCF (Philippine Christian Foundation) Community School in Vitas, Tondo.

The school was built in 2003 to educate the children who used to work as trash pickers, and Rene was among a small group taking part in a special per-

UK ENVOY, A13

WALKING THE TALK "Very exciting," says the ex-UK Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Beckingham as he inspects what will become the world's largest school—Philippine Christian Foundation Community School—made from recycled materials. CH LICHAUCO

WHAT'S INSIDE

Willie unfazed by signature campaign launched to ban him from TV
/ ENTERTAINMENT

When Auggie met Cory • A massive crowd came for Cory and so did a virtual Who's Who
/ LIFESTYLE

Parents tell their children why they are deeply affected by Cory's passing
/ JUNIOR INQUIRER

'Noynoy for president' banners sprout in GMA country, Pampanga
/ NEWS A2

'Casablanca' but with happy ending

By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A PHILIPPINE Airlines flight to Manila was delayed yesterday when a passenger on board refused to leave without the woman he loves.

PAL Flight No. 522 was preparing for takeoff at 10 p.m. yesterday when Dubai Malik, 21, a Bangladeshi national, stood up and begged the flight crew to allow him to get off the plane, according to police.

When that didn't work, he started to cry.

"He was crying and begging the crew to allow him to get off the plane," said Supt. Elias Abad, chief of the Aviation Security Group (ASG), quoting stories from the flight captain, the crew and several passengers.

Abad said one of the crew members tried to appease Malik, and told him he couldn't disembark as the plane was about

CASABLANCA, A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: [illegible] Website: [illegible]

EZ2
2PM 14 25
5PM 13 [illegible]

SUERTRES
2PM 7 4 [illegible]
5PM 6 1 3
9PM 8 4 7

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
4 2 8 0 4 4

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
9 15 18 25 28 39
P6,973,012.80

POWER LOTTO 6/55+1/10
33 43 37 14 50+ 4
P68,331,258.00

Pro-Noynoy signs appear on GMA turf

By Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—A MOVEMENT PUSHING SEN. BENIGNO "Noynoy" Aquino III for president has sprouted in the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo, only three days after the burial of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

Yellow streamers, hung in several barangays in this city said to be the nearby Pampanga towns of Mabalacat and Magalang, read: "Benigno 'Noynoy' Aquino III for President Movement Sigaera Ina!"

The banners use the surnames in Barangays Sto. Domingo, San Jose, Pandapang and Balibago in Angeles City.

They were also hung in Bishilig, Felicisimo and Talimo in Mabalacat and in the town proper of Magalang.

Concepcion in Tarlac, the hometown of the senator's late father, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., used to be part of Magalang.

Tricycle drivers said they saw the people who put up the streamers Friday night.

As Inquirer source in Malacañang said the campaign was headed by two local Lakas-Kampi-CMD stalwarts—Pampanga Rep. Carmelo Lazatin and Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales.

The party is headed by President Arroyo. The source did not want to be named because of his position in the Arroyo administration.

Continue parents' legacy

Lazatin did not return calls.

Without confirming his role in putting up the streamers, Morales said many of his constituents were clamoring for Noynoy to run for president in May 2010 to "continue the legacy of his parents in democracy-building."

Ninoy Aquino, a leading opposition leader during the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, was murdered upon his return to the Philippines from exile on Aug. 21, 1983. His death triggered a protest movement that led Marcos to accede to snap elections in 1986. Aquino's widow, Cory, united the splintered opposition and challenged the ailing Marcos in the snap poll.

In an unexpected turn, the February 1986 People Power revolt toppled Marcos and installed Cory Aquino as president, restoring democracy to the Philippines.

"It's the call of the people," Morales said of the streamers that appeared barely two days after Cory Aquino was laid to rest.

The Inquirer source said Lazatin and Morales had met with barangay officials in the three districts.

"Apparently, Lazatin and Morales had not met with barangay officials in the other districts."

"Apparently, Lazatin and Morales had not met with barangay officials in the other districts."

Other sources were skeptical of the streamer campaign, however, saying that aside from being in bad taste at this time, President Arroyo's supporters could be trying to sow intrigue.

Prospective LP candidate

The young Aquino is seen as a prospective candidate of the Liberal Party for vice president, a possible running mate of Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

Sen. Richard Gordon, meanwhile, advised fellow senator Aquino not to be easily swayed by those pushing for his candidacy for president or vice president in 2010.

"We don't decide just because he's the son of a (former) president. We decide because he's the best man to become president of the Philippines," said Gordon.

"So I always say, you have to earn the presidency" he added.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu disagreed with Gordon. He said he would support Cory's son if he decides to run for president or vice president.

"Noynoy is more deserving than anyone of them (other presidential aspirants), but the big question is if he will run," he said. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

JUST DAYS AFTER his mother, former President Cory Aquino, was laid to rest, a supposed viewer has risen for her son Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino to run for president in President Macapagal-Arroyo's province no less. (Inset) Cory Aquino

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Cory family 'stays on the bus, forget about us'

From page A1

of an entire nation helped the Aquino family cope in their hours of bereavement.

This was quite evident on the day of the funeral. If you didn't know there was a funeral procession going on for a beloved President, you would think the passengers inside the bus were just on its way to a picnic or a family reunion.

For the second time in 26 years, the Aquinos were again together in a bus, following a flower-decked hearse that bore a coffin. In 1983, it was that of their father, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., who was shot dead shortly after arriving from the United States; on Wednesday, it was their mother's, fondly called by many Filipinos as Tita Cory.

Apart from Noynoy and Josh, inside the bus were Ballsy and Eldon Cruz, Pinky and Miguel Abellada, Viel and Dodot Dee, Kris and James Yap and the grandchildren, Aside Benigno "Noy" Cruz, Kiko Pangilinan's son Cruz, Miguel Gerardo Abellada, Ana Gonzalo "Nina" Abellada, Francis Joseph "Kiko" Dee, Jackson Patrick "Jac" Dee and Bailey James Yap.

SLOW BUS TO MANILA, HEROISM. Overwhelmed by the multitudes during the funeral procession, the children and grandchildren of Cory Aquino showed their appreciation all throughout the route. Kris, for instance, pops a head out of a window to wave and smile. But inside the bus the family also talked of ghost stories and humiliated themselves.

Too tired to cry

"I lost weight. It's the only good thing about the entire situation," Bailey said. "I'm too tired to even cry," added Viel.

Jiggy said he was "overwhelmed" by the sight of multitudes lining to the streets, waiting to pay their final respects to his grandmother and greeting a glimpse of the family Cory left behind.

"Thank you, maraming salamat, " the Aquino grandchildren chorused as they took turns to acknowledging the crowds, scanning the posters, streamers and pictures of their grandmother they held up generally.

Dr. Jesus Boylan, however, blessed Miguel Abellada one s group carrying the La Salle colors. "Go La Salle!" he cheered us.

Kiko Dee had another concern: "Can the people see us? Maybe we should lock us in the lights?" Assured that vehicle was not heavily dressed, the Aquinas continued waving their hands, flashing the "Laban!" sign.

There was another cause of worry.

During Ninoy's funeral 26 years ago, they all vomited about going to the toilet. Knowing this was going to be a problem, Eldon asked: "Did you all go to the toilet? That is going to take some time."

On Twitter

Reams of expedient, ergonomic and pun de sal were passed around throughout the journey. Eldon: "The people have no names while waiting for us, then they are no waiting."

Manolo Abellada took photos of the crowd, most of them taken from the bus' windows, and posted them on Twitter.

Everyone dated on Baby James' arms, by turn, was fun aniloop. When he woke up, his cousins immediately turned their attention on him.

"Does the baby?" the young Aquinas chanted as Baby James was clutched from his mother's arms to the arms of another, who was also in turn passed on to Yaya A, or the baby. "Baby on the way?" they cheered once more until the baby was back in his father's arms.

Except for Baby James who turned around the bus, the young Aquinas practically stayed in their seats throughout the long ride, uncomplaining.

"We look subdued," Miguel Abellada told the Inquirer, "but you should see us on Sundays."

The young Abellada volunteered that "Tita Noy" was their favorite uncle. "He likes children," Abellada said, adding that Noynoy's bachelor status was a favorite family topic.

On the verge of a concern, a bored Jashna demanded: "I want to go home!"

"You want me to get married, Ate?" Noynoy told his nephew. That quieted the boy for sometime.

Halfway to the burial site, the long ride and cramped up space finally took its toll. Many inside the bus experienced difficulty breathing.

Eldon stood up to open the windows a bit. An elderly woman shouted "Subuh! Ma'am Subuh!" but looking in Viel's direction.

Photo request

The windows were now rolled down. A hand was thrust inside the bus, with a camera and a request: "Please, take a picture of Kris for me."

Kris' nephew happily obliged, then told the shocked lady, "Sorry boss, Kris is not here. She is in another bus." Kris sometimes sees Cory the night he left behind and we might take your camera with us!"

"She gifted us with the love and the possession of the entire nation," Dodot Dee said of his mother-in-law as the bus approached the Manila Memorial Park gates. "This is the only love that could come close to reaching what we lost."

Kris, James and Baby James drew the loudest screams, as they moved into the crowd.

But it was not Kris' name on their lips.

It was always "Cory, Cory, Cory."

Driving Cory an honor; ₱400 pay OK

From page A1

in my grandchildren, and also when a privilege it was to drive the truck that carried the coffin of a former President," added the proud father of three.

The assignment came as a surprise.

Last Sunday, Orbino was told by his supervisor at Harbour Link Transport Inc. that he had a special assignment for the week, one that did not involve driving a container van. He has been with the company for 10 years starting as a truck helper. He now drives 20-feet dropping containers.

"I was nervous at first, when my co-workers and I should be extra careful because I would be driving for Tita Cory," he said.

Orbino said he had to drive cautiously as throngs of eager Aquino supporters who joined the funeral procession rather rushed or jogged in front and beside the truck during the 23-kilometer drive.

He had to be extra careful because he also had 10 passengers four honor guards who stood motionless beside Aquino's casket throughout the march-paced procession.

"I really tried my best not to hit anybody. I also thought of the honor guards who could fall off the truck if I suddenly stopped or the brakes since they had such big to hold on to," Orbino said.

Like the four guards, he could not take food or toilet breaks. His only consolation was he didn't get big cramps, unlike he was to driving long distances.

The eight to nine crowds freely expressing their love and appreciation for Aquino's heroism and sacrifices, however, was enough to take away the exhaustion he felt at the end of the day.

"I just thought of how noble and significant my assignment was," he said.

₱400 daily wage

Orbino said that apart from the ₱400 he received as his daily wage, there were no extras. But that doesn't bother him.

"The amount of money was never part for the stress in a lifetime chance I had," he said. "I'm sure many people envy me now."

'Casablanca' but with...

From page A1

to take off for Manila.

Mollik became frantic as all the crew called the pilot, a certain Capt. De Guzman.

"Mollik was adamant that he was getting off. So chairman had no option but to grant his wish," Abad said.

Follow the foreigner

The foreigner's baggage was removed from the aircraft and the 486 had to run a second security check on the plane.

The delay alarmed other passengers, Abad said, and they too, decided to disembark.

Mollik got wind and argued with the captain about his decision," said Miss Bonita, one of the passengers, who witnessed Mollik's outburst.

Abad said that before Mollik insisted on deplaning, many passengers overheard him telling on his mobile phone:

"I am going down...don't worry." Abad recounted Mollik's phone conversation, based on the passengers' accounts.

LQ

Mollik told Abad that he and his Filipino girlfriend were vacationing in this city. They had a lover's quarrel so he decided to leave ahead of their Aug. 20 flight for Kuwait where they both work.

Abad said Mollik was clearly on the phone when he suddenly realized that he could not possibly leave without the woman he loves as he begged the crew to allow him to get off the plane.

The two lovers were involved in the 486 office a few hours later.

Abad said he also spoke with the Filipina girlfriend who assured him that Mollik was a good person.

He told the couple not to fight anymore and to see him in his office before their scheduled flight on Aug. 20.

"I just want to make sure they're together when they leave and the incident will not be repeated," Abad said in jest.

Not just in the movies

Would Mollik be charged for delaying the flight?

Abad said since the passenger did not commit any crime, he was free to go after the investigation.

Abad had asked PAL if it would file a civil case against Mollik for losses incurred since only half of the original number of passengers boarded the flight to Manila.

"Not that yet, decided not to file any case," he said.

Who said happy endings only happen in the movies?

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 9, 2009
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 K 19:4-8

Elijah disappointed into the desert going on a day's journey. There he ran down and under a broom tree and prayed to die. "That is enough. Take away my life for I am dying."

He lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree. Then an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." Elijah looked and saw at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and went back to sleep. The angel of Yahweh came a second time to him, saying, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too long for you." He got up, ate and drank, and on the strength of that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mount of God.

Psalm Responsorial: Ps 34:2-9

Do not imitate the holy Spirit of God which you were sealed with. It will be your distinction until the day of liberation. Do away with all pretending, anger, anger, malice and every kind of malice: be good and understanding, mutually forgiving one another as God forgave you in Christ.

Gospel: Jn 6:41-51

The Jews murmured because Jesus had said, "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," and they said, "This man is the son of Joseph, isn't he? We know his father and mother. How can he say that he has come from heaven?"

Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. It has been written in the Prophets: They shall all be taught by God. So whoever listens and learns from the Father comes to me.

"Not as one has seen the Father except the One who comes from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, I say to you, whoever believes has everlasting life.

"I am the bread of life. Though your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, they died. But here you have the bread which comes from heaven so that anyone who eats of it will not die.

"I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

Commentary:

Jesus continues to answer into the "Bread of Life" discourse. He repeats the bread of life with His flesh, the flesh that he will give for the life of the world. Jesus' choice of words is deliberate, for it makes crystal clear the meaning of the discourse. After all, the term "bread of life" could easily be interpreted as a metaphor for the teaching. This would explain why the authorities conclude that the phrase "bread of life" referred simply to his verbal instructions.

Jesus clearly intends the phrase "bread of life" to have a much more particular meaning. In the Eucharist, He identifies the spiritual gift He has promised: flesh and blood. When He says that His flesh will be given for the life of the world, Jesus is referring to His body being nailed to the cross. He Himself being poured out to be the perfect sacrifice of Calvary. There can be no doubt that these powerful words point forth to this sacrificial death and to the Holy Eucharist, the means by which this sacrifice would be represented for others around the world until He comes in glory.

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Viel keeps Fatima rosary, sisters agree

From page A1

daughters, Kris Aquino, suggested that the rosary remain with her mother.

Aquino, however, had other plans for the rosary.

"My mom I wanted the rosary to help other people. So instead of taking it with her [to the grave], we made Viel the custodian of the rosary," said eldest daughter, Maria Elena "Ballsy" Cruz, on Friday, the study night of the novena for Aquino's wake who passed away on Aug. 1.

All the Aquino siblings, but Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Ballsy Cruz, Aurora Corazon "Pinky" Abellada, Victoria Elisa "Viel" Dee and Kris Aquino attended the novena Mass held at the Shrine of Jesus and Mary Parish in Mint Triangle, Quezon City.

Why Viel?

When asked why they chose Viel as the custodian, Bailey Cruz said in Filipino: "Siyempre ang sabi ni tita, she is the most careful of belongings."

At the beginning, the siblings considered dividing the rosary.

"There are five of us and the rosary has five decades. In the end, we decided that Viel should keep the rosary," the eldest daughter said.

She said it was her mother's wish that they keep Sister Lucia's rosary in case someone would need it.

Marian devotion

A known Marian devotee, Aquino was given a special rosary "to protect her and her presidency" by Sister Lucia, one of the children who witnessed the miracle at Fatima.

In September 2008, Cardinal Ivo visited Sister Lucia at the Carmelite convent in Coimbra, Portugal.

Arevalo swore about what happened during the meeting in an article published April 6, 2008 in the Inquirer: "Sister Lucia was more than willing to give the rosary to Cardinal Ivo. Sister Lucia was more than willing to give the rosary to Cardinal Ivo. Sister Lucia was more than willing to give the rosary to Cardinal Ivo.

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Filipino social welfare attaché in Malaysia found dead

A SOCIAL WELFARE ATTACHÉ assigned in Malaysia was found dead in his apartment, the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur said in a report to the home office in Sarajevo.

The embassy identified the attaché as Timoteo G. Cebillo, who had been in Malaysia since 2008 and whose work as said was the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Manila.

It said the embassy learned of Cebillo's death when Ambassador Victoria Lenora dispatched its administrative officer to his residence to check on him on Friday after Cebillo failed to come to work two days in a row.

Embassy officials immediately coordinated the incident to the Malaysian Foreign Ministry and local police and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

The DFA informed the POEA which in turn notified Cebillo's family of his death.

The Associated Press said Malaysian police were investigating and if appeared that Cebillo was "bludgeoned to death in his apartment."

The Star newspaper quoted IG police investigations chief Rai Chin Shiku as saying authorities had ruled out robbery as a motive because Cebillo's cash and valuables were not taken.

Cebillo had multiple head and body injuries and was believed to have been beaten with fists and objects by more than one attacker, the news report said.

In Manila, the Sto Cristo Policy Center, a nongovernmental organization helping distressed overseas Filipino workers, paid homage to Cebillo's "noble work and selfless service."

"We have lost a good man in the fight against human trafficking," said former Labor Undersecretary Susan Ople, center chair.

Ople said she says Cebillo only last Wednesday afternoon at the embassy where they discussed a case against a major trafficker of Filipino women with Lenora and a Department of Justice team. *Cynthia D. Balana, AP*

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The Catholic University of the Philippines

Congratulations to UST's Pride!

The Thomasian Board Topnotchers and Board Passers for 2009

ARCHITECT LICENSURE EXAMINATION (JUNE 2009)

Ramil Bellesa Tibayan	1st Place	84.10%
Joanna Jane Ngo Comet	5th Place	80.80%

UST Passing Rate: 55% — Number of UST Examinees: 204
National Passing Rate: 36% — Number of UST Board Passers: 112

PHYSICAL THERAPIST LICENSURE EXAMINATION (JULY 2009)

Liselle Stacy Tan Lao	8th Place	83.35%

UST Passing Rate: 97% — Number of UST Examinees: 66
National Passing Rate: 44.6% — Number of UST Board Passers: 64

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST LICENSURE EXAMINATION (JULY 2009)

Lorraine Venice Chua Ocampo Tan	2nd Place	84.60%
Eloise Jane Buenaventura Timbang	2nd Place	84.60%
Sheena Flor Blancaflor Astilla	3rd Place	84.40%
Jannineth Natasha Agutaya Hamili	3rd Place	84.40%
Crismae Mangahas Diay	4th Place	84.00%
Aaron De Vera Ramos	7th Place	83.40%
Miguel de Castro Matalla	8th Place	83.80%

UST Passing Rate: 70% — Number of UST Examinees: 43
National Passing Rate: 44.6% — Number of UST Board Passers: 31

NUTRITIONIST-DIETITIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION (JULY 2009)

Paola T. Suarez	1st Place	89.95%
Robby Carlo A. Tan	4th Place	86.40%
Genevieve M. Rosario	7th Place	86.85%

UST Passing Rate: 59% — Number of UST Examinees: 78
National Passing Rate: 47% — Number of UST Board Passers: 55

NURSE LICENSURE EXAMINATION (JUNE 2009)

Marco Magtulis Dorsettta	5th Place	85.80%
Margaret Cheung Encarnacion	5th Place	85.80%
Marc Bago-Od Marzan	5th Place	85.80%
Lisa Angelica Vela Evangelista	6th Place	85.60%
Adinor Patrick Patawaran Calinog	7th Place	85.20%
Aaron Miranda Esporlas	7th Place	85.20%
Mary Joy Samval Crisostomo	8th Place	85.00%
David John Gabriel Egbalic Cristobal	8th Place	85.00%
Libby Joy Recinto Evangelista	8th Place	85.00%
Girdlie Marie Galarpe Visaya	8th Place	85.00%
Helene Maria Mejorada Calderon	9th Place	84.80%
Abigail Ann Barrameo Candelario	9th Place	84.80%
Jan Benson Tan Chan	9th Place	84.80%
Anna Melissa Senga Lo	9th Place	84.80%
Johanna Thomas Yu	9th Place	84.80%
Angela Carmela Fernandez Agbay	10th Place	84.60%
Phealyp Edward Aytona	10th Place	84.60%
Julienne Katrina Sulaon Beltran	10th Place	84.60%
Maria Rosario Angela Brillantes	10th Place	84.60%
Jasper Quintana Castillo	10th Place	84.60%
Jose Mari Nino Leanor Cuarto	10th Place	84.60%
Abigail Joanna Uy Dolumtag	10th Place	84.60%
Jana Flores Fraganta	10th Place	84.60%
Divina Viktoria Polejo-La Torre	10th Place	84.60%
Rachelle Rafiola Milante	10th Place	84.60%
Christelle Miracle-Ar Quizon Santiago	10th Place	84.60%

UST Passing Rate: 98% — Number of UST Examinees: 478
National Passing Rate: 41% — Number of UST Board Passers: 472

PROUD TO BE THOMASIANS AT 400!

MERGE review

BATANG MERGE, BOARDPASSER NA! TOPNOTCHER PA!

We are 1 June 09 Nurse Licensure Exam with **91%** National Passing Rate

GOLDA M. YAP - TOP 1
Felipe R. Varela Memorial Foundation 86.80%

TRINITY UNIVERSITY of ASIA
-St. Luke's College of Nursing
TOP 2 Performing School 99%
(TUA-SLCN 100% Passing in MERGE 215 out of 215)

Von Wenner P. Miguel TOP 9 84.80%
Perpetual Help College Manila

Rove Ann T. Buhagiar TOP 10 84.80%
Trinity University of Asia

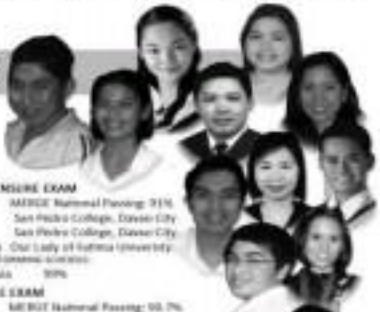
dahil nag-MERGE sila nag-TOP sila!!!

GO! MERGE THINK! ENROLL NOW!

YOUR WISEST Decision EVER MADE!!!

Congratulations to All MERGE BABIES Boardpassers and Topnotchers!!!

Home of the TOPNOTCHERS



NOVEMBER 2008 NURSE LICENSURE EXAM
PRC National Passing: 44.53% MERGE National Passing: 90.80%

Top 1:	Vina Krizia Biag	San Pedro College, Davao City
Top 1:	Fibba Te Lim	Ateneo de Cotabato College Foundation
Top 8:	Garry Jay Delfin	Iloilo Doctors College
Top 9:	Karina Banayat	Our Lady of Fatima University
Top 9:	Marissa Rapanut Ferrer	Lyceum Northwestern College
Top 9:	Francis Jerwin Jalipa	San Pedro College, Davao City
Top 10:	Angela Ishla Mercias	Unciano College, Manila

JUNE 2008 NURSE LICENSURE EXAM
PRC National Passing: 43.07% MERGE National Passing: 94%

Top 6:	Karen Marie Flores	Trinity University of Asia
Top 8:	Kristine Marie Aguinaga	Perpetual Help Manila College
Top 9:	Glynes Dionen Corpuz	Capitol Medical Center
Top 9:	John Hinagie Tobo	Trinity University of Asia
Top 9:	Catherine Uy	Southeast Asian College
Top 10:	John Robert Bautista	Trinity University of Asia
Top 10:	Marrielee Isaac Sentilla	Trinity University of Asia
Top 10:	Jomar Pongpilio	Colombian College, Olongapo
Top 1:	Trinity University of Asia	99.7%

DECEMBER 2007 NURSE LICENSURE EXAM
PRC National Passing: 42.71% MERGE National Passing: 91%

Top 4:	Riel Nawarra	San Pedro College, Davao City
Top 9:	Mary Loren Tabia	San Pedro College, Davao City
Top 9:	Avra Nida Abare Tonga	Our Lady of Fatima University
Top 1:	Trinity University of Asia	99%

JUNE 2007 NURSE LICENSURE EXAM
PRC National Passing: 48% MERGE National Passing: 98.7%

Top 9:	Mark David Francisco	Our Lady of Fatima University
Top 1:	Trinity University of Asia	98.3%

DECEMBER 2006 NURSE LICENSURE EXAM
PRC National Passing: 49.05% MERGE National Passing: 92%

Top 3:	Derrell Junjon	Our Lady of Fatima University

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Celebrating Freedom from High Cost of Medicines

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9502 otherwise known as the "Universally Accessible Cheaper Quality Medicines Act of 2008", the following medicines should be sold at a price NO HIGHER than the following **Maximum Drug Retail Prices** (MDRP)

ACTIVE INGREDIENT/ MOLECULE	DOSAGE STRENGTH AND FORM	Maximum Drug Retail Price (PhP)
	ANTI-HYPERTENSIVE	
1. Amlodipine (including its S-isomer and all salt form)	2.5 mg tablet	8.80
	5 mg tablet	22.85
	10 mg tablet	38.50
	ANTI-CHOLESTEROL	
2. Atorvastatin	10 mg film-coated tablet	34.45
	20 mg film-coated tablet	39.13
	40 mg film-coated tablet	50.50
	80 mg film-coated tablet	50.83
	Amlodipine besilate 5 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 10 mg tablet	45.75
	Amlodipine besilate 5 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 20 mg tablet	66.25
	Amlodipine besilate 5 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 40 mg tablet	84.42
	Amlodipine besilate 5 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 80 mg tablet	89.99
	Amlodipine besilate 10 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 10 mg tablet	51.13
	Amlodipine besilate 10 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 20 mg tablet	73.25
	Amlodipine besilate 10 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 40 mg tablet	91.79
	Amlodipine besilate 10 mg + Atorvastatin calcium 80 mg tablet	91.79
	ANTIBIOTIC/ ANTIBACTERIAL	
3. Azithromycin and all its Salt form	250 mg tablet	108.50
	200 mg/5 mL powder for suspension (15 mL)	427.50
	200 mg/5 mL powder for suspension (22.50 mL)	638.00
	500 mg tablet	151.43
	500 mg vial for injection	992.50
	2 g granules	468.00
	ANTI-NEOPLASTICS/ ANTI-CANCER	
4. Cytarabine	100 mg/ mL ampul/vial (IV/SC)	240.00
	100 mg/ mL ampul/vial (IV/SC) (5mL) or 500 mg vial	900.00
	100 mg/ mL ampul/vial (IV/SC) (10mL) or 1g vial	1800.00
	20 mg/mL (5mL) ampul/vial for injection	1980.00
5. Doxorubicin and all its Salt form	10 mg powder vial for injection	1485.75
	50 mg powder vial for injection	2265.74

As per Executive Order No. 821 entitled **" Prescribing the Maximum Drug Retail Prices for Selected Drugs and Medicines that Address Diseases that Account For the Leading Causes of Morbidity and Mortality"**

Section 2b. The Maximum Drug Retail Price of all drugs and medicines stated herein shall be imposed in all retail outlets, public or private, including drugstores, hospitals and hospital pharmacies, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), convenience stores and supermarkets, and the like.

2b.2. No public or private entity or person shall be allowed to sell, reimburse, or demand from the public or patients payment or compensation higher than the MDRP.

This is effective **AUGUST 15, 2009**

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE UNDER PENALTY OF LAW

GENERICS SAVES

OK-DOH-K!

OK sa Kalusugan,
OK sa Bayan!

please cut

Sec. Francisco T. Duque III
Department of Health

Celebrating Freedom from High Cost of Medicines

50% OFF

VOLUNTARY REDUCTION PRICE LIST

ACTIVE INGREDIENT/ MOLECULE	DOSAGE STRENGTH AND FORM	COMPANY	OLD RETAIL PRICE	GMA GOVERNMENT MEDIATED ACCESS PRICE
ANTI-HYPERTENSIVE				
1. Telmisartan	40 mg tablet	Boehringer	41.00	33.70
	Telmisartan 40 mg + Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg tablet	Boehringer	49.00	39.00
	80 mg tablet	Boehringer	55.00	44.00
	Telmisartan 80 mg + Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg tablet	Boehringer	56.00	44.00
2. Irbesartan	150 mg tablet	Sanofi-Aventis via Winthrop	46.75	34.50
	Irbesartan 150 mg + Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg tablet	Sanofi-Aventis via Winthrop	56.50	39.13
	300 mg tablet	Sanofi-Aventis via Winthrop	65.00	49.00
	Irbesartan 300 mg + Hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg tablet	Sanofi-Aventis via Winthrop	62.50	41.00
ANTI-THROMBOTIC				
3. Clopidogrel	75 mg film-coated tablet	Sanofi-Aventis	122.00	81.70
ANTI-DIABETIC/ ANTIHYPOGLYCEMIC				
4. Glibenclamide	5 mg Micronized Molecular tablet	Servier	10.00	7.00
	5 mg tablet	Servier	10.00	7.00
ANTIBIOTIC/ ANTIBACTERIAL				
5. Piperacillin + Tazobactam	Piperacillin 2 g + Tazobactam 250 mg vial	Wyeth	2715.40	795.00
	4 g + Tazobactam 500 mg vial	Wyeth	4814.00	1275.00
6. Ciprofloxacin	500 mg tablet	Bayer	64.00	41.91
	500 mg tablet (Extended Release)	Bayer	96.33	69.00
	1 g tablet	Bayer	140.10	73.50
	250 mg tablet	Bayer	65.10	33.57
	2 mg/ml, 100 ml/ inf injection	Bayer	1884.11	943.00
	2 mg/ml, (50 ml.) in 100 mg/ IV infusion (50 ml.)	Bayer	1440.57	720.43
	400 mg (200 ml.) inf injection	Bayer	2257.11	1003.00
7. Meloxicam	15 mg/1ml, (60 ml.) suspension	Sanofi-Aventis	121.00	90.90
	500 mg tablet	Sanofi-Aventis via Winthrop	22.00	11.70
	500 mg (100ml.)/ IV infusion	Sanofi-Aventis	370.00	185.10
8. Co-Amoxiclav (Amoxicillin + Clavulanic acid)	625 mg tablet	GSK	91.10	46.00
	375 mg tablet	GSK	70.00	35.70
	1 g tablet	GSK	140.00	71.30
	600 mg vial for injection	GSK	681.00	340.70
	1.2 g vial for injection	GSK	1180.10	570.40
	Amoxicillin 200 mg + Clavulanic acid 28.5 mg/5ml. (70ml.) suspension	GSK	555.00	277.72
	Amoxicillin 125 mg + Clavulanic acid 31.25 mg/5 ml. (60ml.) suspension	GSK	370.00	185.00
	Amoxicillin 250 mg + Clavulanic acid 62.5 mg/ 5 ml. (60ml.) suspension	GSK	444.00	222.00
	Amoxicillin 400 mg + Clavulanic acid 57 mg/5 ml. (70 ml.) suspension	GSK	940.00	470.20
	Amoxicillin 600 mg + Clavulanic acid 91 mg/5 ml. (50 ml.) suspension	GSK	883.10	441.60
ANTI-REHPLASTIC/ ANTI-CANCER				
9. Docetaxel	10 mg multidose/ inj injection	Bristol-Meyer Squibb via Zuellig	5,700.00	1035.00
10. Carboplatin	10 mg/ml, (15 ml.) vial or 150 mg/ inj injection	Bristol-Meyer Squibb via Zuellig	3,833.00	1035.00
11. Cisplatin	50 mg powder vial for injection	Bristol-Meyer Squibb via Zuellig	2864.00	1125.00
12. Cyclophosphamide	50 mg tablet	Bristol-Meyer Squibb via Zuellig	22.00	11.00
	200 mg vial for injection	Baxter	880.00	170.00
	500 mg vial for injection	Bristol-Meyer Squibb via Zuellig	888.00	544.00
	1 g or 1000 mg vial for injection (no innovator locally)	Qualimed	1,100.00 (most expensive brand)	877.00
13. Etoposide (No innovator locally)	100 mg tablet	Qualimed	1100.00 (most expensive brand)	880.00
14. Mercaptopurine	50 mg tablet	GSK	75.00	33.00
15. Methotrexate sodium (No innovator locally)	2.5 mg tablet	Qualimed	22.00 (most expensive brand)	11.00
	50 mg/ 2ml, vial for injection	Qualimed	833.00 (most expensive brand)	666.00
16. Mitomycin	40 mg powder for injection	Baxter	888.00	180.67

The price cuts will be effective starting August 15, 2009. However, the small and medium sized drugstores with manual operations will be allowed until September 15, 2009 to reconcile and validate inventories already in the shelves.

After this date, appropriate sanctions would be imposed on non-compliant manufacturers, distributors, traders, retailers, and others.

GENERICS SAVES

OK-DOH-K!

OK sa Kalusugan,
OK sa Bayan!

Sec. Francisco T. Duque III
Department of Health

Sec. Peter B. Favila

please cut

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

Disreputable

EDITORIAL

SOMETIMES ALL PEOPLE WANT IS A SENSE OF proportion. When our officials lose that sense of proportion because of hubris, then there's hell to pay.

President Macapagal-Arroyo enjoins the nation to ensure the drunk of Cory Aquino, then celebrators her wedding anniversary with up to 30 legislators, their families, staff, some Cebuano officials and various hangers-on, all on their PLUSA (Filipinos International) dime at the country will revolt in disgust at the $20,000 (nearly P1 million) bill that got Mrs. York groups columnist shrugs over the profligacy of a Third World politician.

A similar lack of proportion characterizes the President's current proclamation of new National Artists. This title was created by presidential fiat. But since Cory Aquino's presidency, it has taken on the characteristics of a process that requires peer review, consensus and—only afterwards, after the process concludes—near unanimous ratification by the President of the Philippines in the capacity of head of state. When the title fit is not an award) has been given, the National Artists are conferred the appropriate insignia, ranking them members of the Order of National Artists.

When such proclamations reflect popular consensus, there is no controversy. But controversy surrounds two of the four National Artists personally selected by the President, and we must ask why this is so. It is because she forgot that the title is meant as a national recognition and not as a power play where presidents settle a factional standoff by weighing in on a pet artist's side. The sentence should be indicative to presidents who possess either an appropriate appreciation of their unifying role as head of state, or who view the arts as enabling the state and not merely mystifying it, that the time isn't ripe to honor a particular artist.

As it is, the proclamation of Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and Cirilo F. Cepeda Sta' sweeps aside whatever tentative merits they may possess, and put the entire process and the Order of National Artists as a roster of excellence into disrepute.

Worse, for one, has a distinguished career which, as she emphatically put it, certainly means she's no idiot. The idiocy, such as it is, is in her willful refusal to see why not just the artistic community but also the country consider her receiving the title as an instance of unsuitability to propriety at par with the President's New York fetes in a time of national mourning. The point isn't whether she deserves the title; it is whether her proclamation, now, throws both her and the title into deepest because of her blindness to the ethical dilemma experienced by her being a high official of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, one of two cultural agencies (the Cultural Center of the Philippines being the other) tasked with vetting the nominations.

No one complained when Cepeda was conferred the Presidential Medal of Merit, and people might have even accepted it if he'd been proclaimed a National Artist for being an impresario in the komiks industry—weaving together stories that entire illustrated on his behalf. But komiks aficionados themselves are up in arms because of his corruption in the categories of visual arts—where he never drew anything—and film, where the less said, the better. The combative Cepeda has tried to turn the tables on his critics by resorting to the flow rhetoric of class warfare, when he lives in Ayala Alabang (and placed outside his home a sign congratulating himself), and has the longtime-banker Manuel L. Morato, as pedigreed an adversary as anyone could wish, aggressively backing him up.

The only class involved in the ethnic controversy is the kind whose absence indicates a substantive deficit to childish conceits all around. To be sure is kind of Old Boys' Club machinery in overdrive in the naming National Artists, most of whom were through the cultural equivalent of a swinger to merit their titles. But the public debate has correctly focused on whether the President has behaved in a manner that enhances the prestige of the title, by using a ceremonious rhetoric is broad and timeless terms, offends, and the public to rendering public plaudits on individual artists.

The President knows the point of no return was reached when she signed the relevant presidential memorandum. It is a fait accompli—and reflects her attitude toward everything as a battle of wills, with farewell and her allies facing down the public at large.

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Reactions

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

LET ME FIRST GO TO A MORE LAMENTABLE subject. But passing mercy of former President Corazon C. Aquino. The extraordinary in pain is personal for a few additions only to her memory and greatness.

Tito Cory as she was known to millions of Filipinos, did not know many of those personally and would not know them as friends even incredible. It was not her fault, of course. She became universally loved by her country through the simple process of doing because of the way she lived.

I personally saw her an immense debt of gratitude for. It was she who made me a justice of the Supreme Court in 1986 although we did not see each other at the time. She relied solely on information about me from few trusted friends and advisers who knew me known. In fact, the first time we met and talked to each other was when she administered to me my oath of office in Malacañang. We had not previous taken together, and that was it.

As it happened, I was the first member of the reorganized Supreme Court who reinstated the first dismissal against her in November 1986, when it was held that she did not have to submit Uniform documents but certificates from by the Commission on Appointments. In the subsequent case of Bautista v. Salonga, she followed my dissent in harmony but the Court said she didn't have to because of the unreversed majority ruling in this earlier case.

She lost in several other important petitions, like Bidinotto v. Yeta, when she chose the temporary chair of the Commission on Elections, and Lianel v. Garcia, on the sale of the property in Aquino without constitutional or statutory authority. She accepted all these in good grace although she was the popular President of the Philippines.

She never schemed to extend her term through the invalid initiative as in the case of Piyasa v. Commission on Elections which both Houses declared to be a complete nullity.

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WAS SUCCESSFUL IN the financial business. Then he went into the bottled water business which eventually went bankrupt. Why? The name of his new factory was "Juan's Funeral Home." He could not go beyond his original business. So he named his bottled water "Juan's Funeral Water."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 6, 41-51), Jesus challenges the Jews not to stick to earthly bread, but to go beyond to the living bread. come down from heaven. Earthly bread is for now. Living bread is for always. We must see beyond and go beyond that which meets the eye. We must not lose sight of what lies ahead and beyond us.

* * *

President Cory Aquino has gone to the great beyond. Her whole life was one big going beyond ... beyond a "simple housewife," to become a reluctant leader of our nation; beyond a great presidency to "retiree Cory" once more, over sickness, hurdles and memorable. She went out of her way for the Filipino people to trust when it was time for her to go, the Filipino people came out of their way to tell her how much she was loved and how she will be remembered, especially now.

* * *

It pays to be good. The day-long funeral procession for President Cory last Aug. 5 showed that the people know, and they can not be fooled. The crowd that sent off President Cory on the streets, not to mention those who joined through radio and television, overwhelmingly, did the right outpouring of love and respect spontaneously and gratefully. There were no spectators that day, only participators. There were no manipulators, only many leaders and countless volunteers. "Who sows" on the side who came out to tell President Cory "Thank you and goodbye."

* * *

The parade of flags past this date have shown us that the Cory magic is still there. Reactivated by the funeral is a complaint against our disrupted of his former noted and privileged. Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban. When I said that Art and Artie (Mabe-G). Beside did not enter part in the case of Estrada v. Arroyo, he was quick to point out that it was Estrada who headed the Supreme Court at the time. When the three landmark cases against Estrada were decided in favor of GMA, the Chief Justice was Panganiban although Puno was then on leave. When President Arroyo lost in the Lacson case, Panganiban was in the 9-man majority although the 7-vote majority was led by Puno. Puno was already chief justice when President Arroyo won published in the case of Ner v. Senate Defense Secretary and in the Pimentel case and initiative cases, clearly showing that Panganiban was lower than Puno, according to Solonga.

In writing the last article, I chose to focus on how GMA was losing in the Supreme Court, where of its members might be, including the Chief Justice. It was not my intention to pit Panganiban against Puno, or vice versa, as both of them are my friends.

When the Court declared Presidential Proclamation 1017 unconstitutional three years ago, Panganiban was the chief justice and I wrote a laudatory article in this column titled "Kanino ang bato." On the other hand, I was the sponsor of Bar and Lay's wedding and 25 years later in the interest of their marriage ... I abstained from any participation in any manner when the pro-emptied him as chief justice in 2005.

I am sorry to see Senator Salonga acting like a politico thugs neither instead of the keen learned statesman I have always known him to be. He has made an end of his unwilling vocation instead of pursuing Cory's common purpose, took in his own way, of promoting the independence of the judiciary.

And, yes, of course, mourning national spirits, Cory, for resurrecting the power the people.

* * *

It seems that his forte is a complaint against our disrupted of his former noted and privileged. Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban. When I said that Art and Artie (Mabe-G). Beside did not enter part in the case of Estrada v. Arroyo, he was quick to point out that it was Estrada who headed the Supreme Court at the time. When the three landmark cases against Estrada were decided in favor of GMA, the Chief Justice was Panganiban although Puno was then on leave. When President Arroyo lost in the Lacson case, Panganiban was in the 9-man majority although the 7-vote majority was led by Puno. Puno was already chief justice when President Arroyo won published in the case of Ner v. Senate Defense Secretary and in the Pimentel case and initiative cases, clearly showing that Panganiban was lower than Puno, according to Solonga.

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And, yes, of course, mourning national spirits, Cory, for resurrecting the power the people.

Going beyond

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

We can live brought unity to our country in life and in death more than President Cory. Her magic is fleeting, no one since could do the Cory magic touched the Cory spirit, which is sacrifice, simplicity and truthfulness. But the spirit too is fragile and can be all too easily gotten, so we must go beyond and focus on the Cory challenge, and that is to make sure that our country remains democratic and free from any form of tyranny, corruption, and moral decay.

* * *

I cited a text underlying the many names, lists, timezones, simple people outside the Manila Cathedral during President Cory's funeral Mass. They were like orphans, waiting and wanting a mother. But I cited more tears watching the personalities and celebrities inside the Cathedral—many of whom are beneficiaries of Cory's sacrifice—who were hardly present when the Cory magic lasted, but who no longer have the Cory spirit in their hearts, and have forgotten all the sins the Cory challenges. Many of them were there for the "bread," not for the bread of life and not for Cory's flight.

* * *

On the eve of the President Cory's burial, I concelebrated at the Mass officiated by Jaime Cardinal Vidal. When it was time for me to give my blessing to President Cory, I began with the L. ("Lahat"). I got, close with the V ("Victory") sign, and finally circled five fingers, ending with four fingers clasped together after giving the blessing, to symbolize and honor the unifying effect President Cory has had on all of us of united di-

Mass and his time as a nation.

* * *

Going to that Mass, I had to walk through the vain and fleeting streets in my favorite pair of shoes whose color was green just a week ago. In what if they fell apart the next day? So what if I had to nurse a cold shortly after? These were little sacrifices compared to the many sacrifices President Cory went through before, during, and after her presidency. Indeed, what have you and I experienced present leaders, sacrificed for our country?

* * *

It is interesting to note that all throughout the wake, the sun set (Our Lady of Fátima never left President Cory's side. Moreover, that the Chief on a first Saturday, the day of Our Lady, and she was buried on a Wednesday, the day of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Need we say more about the remarkable power and presence of Mama Mary in the life of President Cory? That we walked with a universal love a definite. That we walked with a modern-day saint is possible.

* * *

All SEO alumni will never again gather as the Christ the King Mission Seminary graduate, L. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City, for the Alumni Homecoming on Aug. 15, 2009. Registration starts at 12 p.m. A concelebrated Mass will be graced by the presence of the Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, DD. Please come and join in this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Call 0917-8373808 or e-mail at ordinaryalumni@yahoo.com for more information. You are also not at their members 8920-0822156 (Ipo-ne), 0917-8373808 (Joseph), 8920-5047430 (Mary), and 0917-9179503 (Jerry).

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to have new joy and have well President Cory's example of going beyond and walking the "extra mile." Amen.

Like Cory or like Ferdie

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

NOW CAN YOU IMPEACH PRESIDENT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo to stop gracefully what her enemies have repeatedly threatened to prosecute and harass her? Why should she stop her allies from extending her rule when they merely want to protect her from her enemies and to pioneer in her legacy of a strong economy?" as asked a reader (who requested anonymity) in reaction to last week's column.

Granted each. True, many critics especially the anti-corruption crusaders and the victims of human rights violations—but not her political enemies—will probably never forgive her for declaring martial law on Sept. 23, 1972. This is the risk that all leaders, particularly those who hold the public trust, must face: to be held accountable for their actions. If she is innocent as she repeatedly avows, then the truth will vindicate her.

During her watch, President Cory Aquino was not spared of criticisms. She allegedly tolerated the disintegration of the so-called "Rating coalition," and allegedly failed to implement the Constitutional provision forbidding political dynasties. Her brother Jose Cojuangco Jr. and her family's supporters temporarily left her to join the military rebellion that led to the seven coup attempts against her. Despite the restriction imposed by the 1987 Constitution that did not apply to her because her presidency began in 1986, before the new Constitution took effect, I, myself, believe she could have run for another term as president or vice president.

However, unlike Ferdinand Marcos, President Cory did not resort to cling to power. She chose to **evidently what she supposedly preached: democratic change.** During her last State of the Nation address on July 28, 1991, she unequivocally announced her administration's decision to turn the presidency and to vote gracefully. For her nobility of character, she is cherished by our people and is admired by the world at the turn of this century.

Protecting GMA's back. I do not think that President Arroyo needs to run away from her detractors and detention. She heads the largest and most powerful political party, the Lakas-Kampi-CMD. Even if

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS COLUMN WILL COME out in a "yellow" issuance edition, or if, by the time this sees print, our front page would be bracing our manhood in proud bayanihan blue.

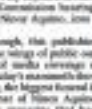
But I do know that it will be some innocuous published in the time honored 123 years to outright "time" don't you think) between audition of—at the same manhood proudly proclaims—"balanced news, fearless views."

On Thursday, Cardinal Jaime Sin passed, I was a speaker at a seminar on teaching children about the media. Asked about this paper's editorial stance, I remarked that at least we have been an "equal opportunity critic" of all presidents since Aquino. In the Ramos presidency, when critics—popped that while he was president, every time he said critical news about him, he "felt like committing suicide," but every time he read the business, he "felt like committing homicide."

Depending on which side of the political bent you stand in, as you read this, I would welcome kudos/pooh-pooh at the moment, the buzzword/acronym "proximity" (tradition or commercial) were not to serve as either a plus or minus factor. Some people, even other managers, have approached me to ask why I have not written about the "yellow" issue dropped hinging the buzzword because it is so full of "negativity." Others have smiled and even told their theories up, as if to say "keep it up." I don't know what to say in either group. All I know is that whatever I want to say against anyone or anything will be published as is. Including the rules of grammar or the libel law. All I know is that every issue where this column appears will be prepared bowing to no external pressure, constricted by no sacred cows, and following no other guidelines than the rules elements of news.

* * *

BUT that doesn't mean this newspaper is without a memory, or a sense of gratitude, which may explain the yellow edition of the past few days. It is also why we had no problem (in fact we just gnawing hero) of acknowledging the debt we owe to Tita Cory, whose basic decision to **run against Ramos in the 1998 coup elections** led to another brave decision on the part of



AT LARGE

Nina Jimenez-David

her founding chair, Eugenia Apostol. This was to transform the then weekly business-oriented to covering the Agnes Constitution hearings on the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, into a daily newspaper.

From Isabel Ilaw, though, this publishing venture was borne on the wings of public outrage over the absence of media coverage of what was, before Wednesday's mammoth throw of sympathy for Miss Cory, the biggest funeral in the country's history: that of Ninoy Aquino. Michiko was to several magazines (Dial Boy, over time and over Tita Eggie's growing pique at the Ilaw(s) regime, began accommodating political content and commentators on its pages. But its decision to publish photos and accounts of the Ninoy funeral had—and I am quoting editorialists rules, but also to the birth of a new paper without going the mosquito press.

* * *

AT THIS time, I was writing to another proud member of the business press, a columnist who by business(es) supportive of the anti-Marcos movement. But even that I'd be serious of the dumb and severity of those writing for and editing the Middle Mark and white editors. Lo appeared to the old magazine hosting plenty control. So many of the editors in the business were here, it was laying down the seeds of its "pro-Cory" reputation.

I joined the business in 1988, two years after the "People Power" revolution, and in the intensity of the battle between coup-makers and the Aquino forces, between President Cory and her administration, on one hand, and the newspapers founded to serve her coup-destroyer campaign, on the other, had long faded, turned

The unfinished Cold War

WORLD VIEW

Sergei Karaganov

MOSCOW— THIS NOVEMBER WILL MARK THE 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. But the end of confrontation in Europe has been long only temporary. One year after last summer's war in Georgia, old divisions seem to be re-emerging in a different form. Although the Cold War in Europe was declared over, the truth is, it never really finished.

When the Soviet Union withdrew from Central and Eastern Europe, we Russians believed that Nato would not be extended to the countries and territories of the former Soviet bloc. Our hope was for unification with Europe, a "common European home" and the creation of a Europe "united and free." Our hopes were not merely eyed self-deception. After all, the leaders of the United States and Europe had given us their word. Gorbachev and Yeltsin would not expand eastward.

At first, after they had vanquished communism, Russians regarded themselves as victors. But, after a few euphoric years, the West began acting as though it was the Cold War's winners. Over the perennial "military threat" posed by the former Union had vanished into thin air, successive waves of Nato-style general moved northward to military-run ideological purpose.

Nato's expansion, not only enlarged its membership, but also transformed itself from an anti-communist defensive alliance into an offensive grouping, both operations in Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Nato's capacities toward Russia's own borders, and the membership of countries whose territories have been claimed by Russia to Russia, increased and Russian sentiment inside the alliance. Its allies efforts to improve its

image, many Russians now view Nato as a much more hostile organization than it was in the 1990s, or even before then.

Moreover, Nato's enlargement has meant that Europe itself has still not emerged from the Cold War. Its unity treaty ended the Cold War, as it remains unfinished. Even though the ideological and military confrontation of those times is far behind us, it is being replaced with a new standoff—between Russia, the European Union, the United States and some of the "New Europeans," on the other.

My hope is that, when Americans look back at Georgia's attack on South Ossetia at last summer, they will realize how dangerous, and unnecessary, that war will be soon as having not died in vain. Russian troops crushed Georgia's army on the ground, but they also delivered a strong blow against the logic of further Nato expansion, which, if not stopped, could have irreversibly destructive impact on the heart of Europe.

For the time being, the situation remains open. The United States failed to unleash some new form of Cold War after the fourth Georgian episode, but because of the global financial and economic crisis.

It is my hope that the global economic crisis and Barack Obama's presidency will put the basic ideas of a new Cold War into proper perspective. Greater Europe, to which I include not only Russia, but also the United States, needs a new peace treaty, or rather a century of accords, that divorce last under Europe's horrible 20th century and does prevent a historical relapse.

What is the most important? The European treaty or collective security, signed either by individual countries or by Nato and the EU, as well as by

by this paper's critical coverage and unflattering commentary, and by the "President-first" even uneasy relations with the media.

The post-Edsa honeymoon lasted just a few months. Soon even those who had been complimentary were directed on whether the paper remained unabashedly "Cory-ista" or had turned into "Cory loathers." My own guess is that at least many of our founders and editors and writers remained Cory-ista, even as they were critical of her policies, because they had been privileged to be the lady in sablak dress and large square glasses on, at least, for the ideals she inspired and the dreams she instilled.

But often in the midst of the realities of day-to-day governance, those same ideals were compromised and the dreams failed or fell short of what they could have become, the Cojuangco imposed their journalistic cynicism—always a good shield against those who would emplace our emotions—and went back to the work of telling it as it is.

* * *

THE PAST week or so has seen a lot of revisionism and revisiting of the Cory years. The values extolling her many virtues have been joined by the burning of those who insist she wasn't all that perfect in the performance of her duties. The commentariat reveals that she had squandered so many opportunities and had failed in her basic task of putting the economy back on its feet and the country on the road to recovery if not prosperity. Even those who were critical of her administration, Bel Cory even remember the reign of the Makati business district, so cleanly and obviously designed to shatter invasive traffic, dusty and hair-thin country's image?

My hope, not only for the people's ever-diet shears to dramatically during the four or five days of her wake and burial, Cory Aquino's legacy no longer remains in doubt.

Yes, she was human and had her faults. Yes, she was not the indefatigable crusader or triumphant leader we had hoped she would be. But she stood up to be counted when her country needed her, as she would do again and again. She made our yellow front page proudly

Proudly yellow

AT LARGE

Nina Jimenez-David

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Nuclear dissimulation

HIROSHIMA, AUG. 6, 1945. NAGASAKI, AUG. 9, 1945. Both dates are remembered as the apocalypse of these cities, when the first nuclear bombs developed by the United States were exploded, decimating their civilian populations; it was also the beginning of the double-standard practice of nuclear-weapons states and big powers with regard to small or nuclear-seeking but lesser nuclear powers.

It is against this background that the United Nations and the International community to condemn nations that are trying to develop their nuclear

COMMENTARY

Roland G. Simbulan

arsenals and capability by conducting tests conducted with actual nuclear detonations and explosions, or by testing long-range nuclear delivery systems such as missiles. The world will not get closer to global peace and prosperity when nations like Iran or South Korea conduct atomic test detonations and missile testing.

There is also something wrong when countries that have long been testing nuclear weapons—like the United States, Russia, China and Israel—are not therefore global hosts of these smaller nuclear nations, in order to hide their continuing efforts to enhance their own nuclear weapons.

The Federation of American Scientists (2000) estimates that the United States has 9,400 nuclear warheads today, while 10 others like Israel and Pakistan have at least 80 and 60, respectively.

When the United States and its allies criticize countries that aspire to be nuclear powers, they invoke the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and obviously want to preserve their monopoly of nuclear weapons but they are also monopoly to blackmail and intimidate small countries.

In the early morning hours of Sep. 25, 2009, the United States is again scheduled to test-fire its own Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara, California into the Pacific Ocean. The ICBMs are the most destructive first strike, long-range nuclear missiles in the US arsenal. They (aspire) to the Ronald Reagan Missile Test Range in Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific.

The US and other Western governments, through their top diplomats and propaganda media like CNN and BBC, have been vociferous in their condemnation of North Korea's development and missile testing by stating that Iran and North Korea, but they have been quiet about the recent and previous long-range missile tests conducted by the United States in the Pacific.

Only last June 29, Minuteman II missiles were fired by the US Air Force Global Command from the US continental mainland into Pacific targets 4,800 miles away. These were not part of the so-called Missile Defense (MD) "shield" system of "first-strike" installations, which the United States has put in place in the Pacific.

The experience during the Cold War has only proven that the arguments of "nuclear deterrence" for self-defense" is a sham and merely contributes to a dangerous, never-ending nuclear arms race. Why does the US impose sanctions only against North Korea and Iran, but not against the United States? How is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (SEA-NWFZT) was signed almost 14 years ago, and are not subject to such sanctions?

As the Philippines is the only country in the region and the world that has adopted a nuclear weapons free policy in its 1987 Constitution (Art. II, Sec. 8), it is no small fear that this policy has now become a regional aspiration as expressed in a formal treaty signed by the 10-member Asean. It is therefore incumbent upon the Aquino government to now enforce and implement the spirit and letter of the treaty and put more muscle into the SEA-NWFZT Commission which Asean established a few years ago in Manila.

The following measures are suggested.

1. Encourage the time other Asean countries adopt nuclear weapons free policies in their constitutions, laws and regulations, in their constitutions (like the Philippines), or through legislation (like in New Zealand).

2. Disallow port visits or entry into the territorial waters of Asean member countries by foreign naval or military vessels unless they certify to the host Asean country that they are not carrying nuclear weapons or nuclear-service material as beyond as components of nuclear weapons.

3. Asean should be informed of the movements within the region of nuclear armed vessels or fleets—whether they belong to the United States, China, France, United Kingdom, Russia, etc.—whenever such vessels enter the South China Sea. This is to avoid any accidents or safety of Asean's marine life on which many Asean peoples depend for their livelihood.

4. Finally, Asean should tap the expertise of non-state institutes and non-government organizations in monitoring and implementing the SEA-NWFZT. Only then will Asean's anti-nuclear weapons treaty make an impact on efforts to create genuine global peace and security and to end the nuclear weapons double standards practiced by the United States and other big powers.

Roland G. Simbulan is a Concerned Professorial Associate of the University of the Philippines where he is a full professor in Development Studies and Political Economy. He is currently a senior fellow at the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CENPEG).

THEY SAID

Tomorrow's headline

"Let me say in no uncertain terms, there will be elections in 2010. There's your headline for tomorrow."
—President Macapagal-Arroyo

Steep price for trees

"I gave up $1 million to architect's fees to fight for my principles and save trees. Why should I give P40,000 for a crime I never committed?"
—Of Benjamin Delos Reyes, who, upon his self-imposed exile to Australia, left the charge in the court claiming that crimes for which Delos Reyes had been convicted—cutting of trees and illegally transporting them—were committed by architect Delos Reyes's company would be included on the list of fugitives for which extradition is sought

Not Filipinos

"The Filipinos didn't kidnap me. [My kidnappers] are a network of organizations that doesn't represent the Philippine people."
—Abigail Dugay, upon his return to Italy after six months of captivity in the Abu Sayyaf

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TALK of the TOWN

Please e-mail feedback to: jaimcasero@inquirer.com.ph

Lira Jose V. Sarmiento Jr.

Celebrate what Cory truly represents

By Emmanuel M. Alison

I RECIT ALMOST TIME I greeted with indifference the news of former President Corazon Aquino's death. Why would I sympathize with somebody who was given the unique opportunity to lead a revolution, my government but squandered almost all the chances that came with it to realize the people's dream of a truly transformative democratic dispensation?

Instead of repudiating Marcos' odious debts and thereby putting some closure to his nightmarish dictatorship, she chose to honor them to the last centavo. In so doing, she consigned future generations to a life of poverty and forced industrialization.

Unaccountable

I learned, then as a young activist, how Aquino as president raised by omission or the Metahelix manners. Would it be just to give my condolences when the martyrs of the Marcos' day are still without justice and the perpetrators are free and not held accountable?

Why would I cheer cues for her when the farmers and workers of Hacienda Luisita are still tied to the same pauperizing conditions which her administration had perpetuated? Clearly, as much as she was a symbol of liberal democracy, she was an agent, consciously or unconsciously, of her own class compulsions.

Oligarchy

And why would I mourn with Aquino's family when it did not even bother to express grief for the thousands, activists and leaders who were summarily executed under the Aquino administration? How would I reason her death when ordinary people, many of them her own coalition march less have the extension and help they so badly need from the media, the Church and the do-gooders?

Why would I theorize the death of a repentant member of the oligarchy, a category, a defender of elite dimensions, an epicenter of the landed and elite class which has treated the masses, "the great unwashed," as mere subjects, possessions and playthings to satisfy its whims?

Why could forget the Aquino administration's pro-US military bases stance? Why could we would her administration's failure to end insurgency conflict and total war policy against "insurgents" which in truth harmed the masses more than its perceived enemies?

Discernment

Are activists not entitled to anger and discernment...and to tell the people's stories which many have chosen to deny-pardy? Why not? Because it's rude? Because activists are disrespecting the dead? Rest about their dead? Is it ill-timed or inappropriate? That when is the right time?

These are some of the many questions that swirled in my head these past few days like confetti dropping from some high-rise building in Makati. Nonetheless, I consented myself with the proposition that my disposition was valid, politically correct and considered with the dances' interest and pulse. Cory will not have my sympathy.

But there again, as I was watching Aquino's funeral service, I could not help but notice the continuing outpouring of support and sympathy from many people. I am not talking about members of the middle class who are often associated with Cory his father, of ordinary people...the Salandeves, the laborers, the manongs, the urban poor, the politicized youths...the same sentiments the broad left movement has shown in serve with utmost passion and dedication.

They have no anger in their eyes, no tirades against the Aquino administration's horrible mistakes, no finger pointing, no rage, no resentment. All I saw on television was a long yellow line of sad faces waiting for their turn to view their president one last time, mourning as if they, too, have lost a loved one.

My first reaction was skepticism and bewilderment, which immediately turned into anger. How could the people have possibly forgotten? How could they have possibly forgiven Cory and her administration when their misery and poverty were tantamount to the first place? How could they absolve her and identify with her?

I concluded that this could be the result of the Filipino people's severe romanticism, their propensity to easily forgive and forget, which inevitably fused with corporate media's proclivity for creating spin and spectacles. I said to myself that this would fade as quickly as it was created with the people going back to reality, to their "Monowave" dreams, to their miserable lives.

Revelation

However, each passing day was a revelation. What struck me most was when people were asked why they were there. Almost all answered that they wanted to pay tribute to the women who helped them restore democracy, who helped them reclaim what was rightfully theirs.

From the mother who brought her daughter all the way from Isabela to teach her about democracy and the students who were too young to remember Edsa I to the laborers and the poor who proudly claimed to have been participants of Edsa I, II and III, all said it was because of democracy.

So loved, cherished

There, is finally dawned on me why this woman was so loved and cherished by a people representing the three Edsas.

It's not so much because she was religious, a mother-like figure to many a give-God without or simply a martyr. Cory has been duly recognized by the people as an icon in their transition from despotism to the rule of law, their struggle from tyranny toward a notion of freedom and democracy.

Cory is first and foremost the representation of that ideal, of that difficult journey toward desired objectives, of that collective institutional experience.

Democracy

And it did not stop there. She will also be remembered as a defender of that particular form of democracy however flawed and maimed it may be in so many ways. From Edsa II, which removed an incompetent and corrupt administration, to her participation in the fight to throw out the Arroyo administration and its plan to amend the Constitution, Cory will be remembered and respected as a person, who despite her privileged status, joined the people in their protests.

She will also be remembered for her seemingly inane republic disposition and her lack of desire to cling to power. This is in sharp contrast with the administrations that followed her, especially that of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Time to reflect

However, the public must also be encouraged to use this period as a time for reflection and deliberation. The people must realize that Philippine democracy and freedom must not only be celebrated and acknowledged as it is but also furthered.

While icons may emerge in historic moments, the people must be conscious of the fact that they are their own icons. They are the real power behind the people power agenda. They are the ones who defended and defended this young and fragile democracy, and yes, they are the image and symbol of the struggle for meaningful change.

Cory has left the realms and embrace this fact, any talk about the so-called poverty of icons will be for naught.

Justice

Moreover, while the nation grieves for Aquino's passing, let us remember and mourn the countless and nameless people who have been wronged, oppressed and in so many cases, disappeared during the decades of systematic neglect and elite rule which Aquino's administration was a part of.

Justice must be served and the principal agents, the ruling class, must be held accountable even if it means wounding old unhealed wounds and inflicting separations.

Leon Alejandro

Let us not forget the martyrs and survivors of Hacienda massacre, the workers and farmers of Hacienda Luisita, Leon Alejandro and all the activists who were tortured, incarcerated and executed in previous years before, during and after Aquino's term.

Any celebration of democracy without according justice to those who thirst for it will not only be empty and meaningless, but also be insulting and degrading to us as a people.

Hence, we must undergo a period of mourning for the loss of a symbol and take time to contemplate and honor our national aspiration for genuine change, justice and equality.

This is the only way to have a complete and truthful celebration of what Cory represents and symbolizes without the illusions, the frills, the immunized concepts and wrong notions, while remaining faithful and true to the people's cause and interest.

Emmanuel M. Alison is a debt and public finance campaigner of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

HOLDINGS write their messages to former President Corazon Aquino near the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila.

Beyond Aquino's contradictory legacies

By Herbert Docena

FUNERALS ARE NOT SO much for the dead as for us who have to go on living.

The dead have passed on, they can no longer hear us weeping. It is we—we who must endure the floods of tears over their graves—who have to be comforted for our loss and who have to confront what lies ahead.

Cory has left but it is we who must have to come to terms with her contradictory legacies. Contrary to the impression conveyed by the media's almost hagiographic coverage of her passing, the burst of emotion that followed Cory's death has not simply been that of bereavement and pure adulation.

Disappointment

Indeed, how many of those who queued for hours through the cold raining nights turned a deep disappointment at Cory's presidency but walked up solemnly, full of gratitude, to her coffin nonetheless?

Of those who walked out of their offices to bid goodbye as Cory's coffin passed, who did not harbor a lingering sense of manic lessness of what Cory has squandered but flashed the "Laban" sign without hesitation?

How many prayed for Cory's soul—but also prayed for the souls of the farmers massacred down with bullets in Mendiola in 1987.

Losing someone is not easy; more so when not conflicted feelings wound the departed could not be so easily reconciled, even by death. On the one hand, Cory inspired us to believe—by leading the movement that toppled the dictatorship—that what we often come to accept as impossible may actually be possible through our actions.

On the other hand, Cory also demonstrated—by squandering a historic opportunity to push for meaningful social reforms—how power can make the possible impossible by fiat.

Better alternatives

In ending tyranny and, later on, foiling right-wing militarists from taking power, Cory averted the chaos. But, by pursuing policies that restored the powers of oligarchs and that abandoned society to the whims of the powerful, she also prevented what could have been better alternatives for millions of Filipinos. Cory achieved back democracy but, at many critical moments, she closed to the way of freedom.

After the Edsa revolt, when the passage of a land reform program became a real possibility, Cory instead chose to escape her family's hacienda, thereby briefly weakening a program that could have freed millions of farmers from generations of bondage.

Personal interest

Corruption is not something invariably associated with Cory but her supporters in her administration have to be objectively defined as the use of state powers to further personal interests, then Cory's actions toward land reform ranks up there as a monument, if less controversial, case of corruption.

Today, tens of thousands of peasants remain consigned to a life of poverty and misery as a result of this historic decision. Clearly is not what they voted, but it is a basic Catholic virtue of which Cory proved incapable at that moment when it could have made a lasting difference.

At the height of the negotiations over the US bases in the late '80s, Mr. Pinatubo erupted. Barbados members pleaded with the US military to allow them to pass through the Subic base in order to expedite their evacuation. But the US military refused, thereby committing growing opposition to the bases, already fired up by years of abuse suffered by many Filipinos at the hands of US soldiers.

And yet, and whose side did Cory march—as one of the rare instances when a sitting president actually joined a public mobilization? On the side of those pleading with the Americans to stay on.

Choices far from easy

Cory's failings were historic but her choices, it must be said, were far from easy. In fact, she has been burdened with a cascade of difficult choices. A widow given the choice to lead an uprising against an entrenched dictator or to continue living in comfortable exile overseas.

A lawmaker challenged to give up her family's landmark legacies or set an example. An unelected president who had the choice to punish to the right-wing military officers or to let them down. If we are judged not just by what we do but by what we have to give up, then some of Cory's choices could readily qualify as acts of heroism. Her other choices, however, have only raised the need for more of them.

And yet, despite any disillusionment, no other death has moved us to spill out into the streets in such great numbers in recent years. Perhaps it's not just to say goodbye but to partake in a collective act of grieving—not so much for the dead but for ourselves.

Just because of the sorrow and distress that preceded and succeeded her, Cory's virtues—her simplicity, her sincerity—seem even more precious and her faults no more—maybe even forgivable!—for a people who are now left to deal with so much worse.

Heroes

Pity the nation that needs heroes, goes the cliché; pity the nation that has lost one.

We weep because we know that our continuing dependence on and continuing need for heroes speak of our continuing tragedy as a people.

But as we pick up the pieces, just as we did after we buried Cory's murdered husband Ninoy, we are left with no choice but to continue what lies ahead.

In so doing, we are reminded of what Cory herself has demonstrated to those days at Edsa that changed our history: our circle of heroes—that she wouldn't be there, that it all wouldn't have happened, if the people weren't there with her.

Without Cory, we may be on our own, and yet we are not kept mourning Ninoy, we are not alone.

Precisely we are not so much for the dead as for us who have to go on fighting.

Herbert Docena, 28, is a former Bongbong A. Aquino Jr. Foundation scholar who now works for a non-government organization.

UK envoy, wife bid farewell, but not goodbye

From page A1

Entrance late last month bestowing and saying goodbye to the Beckinghams. The ambassador's posting had ended and the couple were preparing to return London.

(The Beckinghams departed Wednesday. Ambassador-designate Stephen Lillie is to officially start work on Aug. 12.—Ed.)

At PCF patron and trustee for the past four years, Jill Beckingham played a critical role in helping these children achieve what they never dreamed possible.

But while the 75 children, faculty and staff gathered during the Beckinghams' last visit in order to convey their appreciation in word, song and dance, it was once elsewhere that they sought out to say farewell but not goodbye.

'You can't walk away'

Jill Beckingham was introduced to the PCF project three months after her arrival in the Philippines in 2004, and first went to Sto. Tomas to see the dumpsite remain there.

The school in those days was built in earnest only in terms of physical space and student population, but the impact of what the core had a ripple effect.

"Once you have seen the smiling faces of those living in abject poverty with little everywhere, you can't walk away. You just want to help," she said.

Jill recalled that it was the painful, pervasive smell that most "got to" her. "Every breath of air these people take smells like a garbage dump," she said.

The well-traveled Beckingham agreed that these conditions were the most catastrophic of poverty they had seen anywhere in the world.

"There are so many disturbing cases in the Philippines, but this is the worst," Jill said. "The fact that people are living in garbage and living off garbage for everything is just unimaginable."

Dignity

Yet, despite the dire conditions of the dumpsite communities, the ambassador's wife was amazed by the residents' spirit. "The children come to school clean, with a smile on their face. They have a dignity about them and they value everything. This is something we should take back to Britain because we do have poor people in Britain but they don't have the same dignity."

Having visited the most hazardous of towns, she also found it wonderful that nobody had ever come begging or asking for alms.

"Everyone is courteous, and although they rummage in order to live, these people are proud of what money they do make," she said.

Meeting British national Jane Walker, PCF founder's visionary and proselytizer, further opened the door through which Jill would eventually lead many other people.

"She was doing an amazing job—educating them, feeding them, giving them a chance in life," Jill said of Walker. "I thought if she can do it, all I can do is support her as much as I can."

Ambassador Beckingham recalled his first impression of Walker: "I was immediately struck by what an enormous job she was doing and how incredibly difficult it was. I was impressed at what an unassuming lady she was—there was no selfishness. She had obviously been completely consumed with the needs of the children and was simply working to fill them."

Raising funds

The problems inherent in a dumpsite community were overwhelmingly complex at times, but the solution for opening the door to a brighter future for its children is admirably simple.

Said Jill Beckingham: "Once they have an education, they have a chance for a better life. Without it, they are destined to be illiterate and the only opening is to be scavengers."

Although the British Embassy has no available funds to help purpose-made as PCF, the ambassador's wife found many creative ways to use her position to help.

For one thing, she brought "everybody known to man down here, particularly British citizens, because I wanted them to see what a British school has done."

In fact, "I brought anyone who I thought could open a few doors in England," she said.

But efforts helped PCF raise several million pesos from government and corporate donations, as well as network with Philippine groups and corporations that also provided support.

Said Jane Walker: "She has personally rushed through the campsite showing visitors around, and has worked with me to develop new programs such as a clinic and feeding programs. [She also] attended endless planning meetings to help secure land for the new school."

Difference

Jill Beckingham smiled: "Everybody who comes down here ends up wanting to help in whatever way they can," she said. "You have to be pretty heartless to see the conditions and not help. And no matter how little you may have to give, it is easy to see the difference it makes to these children's lives."

Acting as a bridge between the school and those who might be able to help push its projects was just one need Jill filled. She also launched imaginative fundraisers, such as indoor nights and having the PCF choir sing outside the ambassador's residence to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's birthday.

"THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS" Jill Beckingham, 4th row, 7th left, proudly shows off a storybook made by students who used to live in shacks on Smokey Mountain to show their appreciation for helping them get an education. The faculty, staff and 75 children also sent a letter. LEO SOTELO

During times when their goals seemed impossible to meet, Jill was inspired by Walker's commitment.

"In some times when we tried to get land, sometimes funding, we got caught in a cycle of one-step-forward-two-steps back. Yet Jane's tenacity and commitment were incredible. She was always smiling and absolutely convinced that it's just going to work!" Jill said, adding:

"Many people came to this area with good intentions to help, but because conditions are so difficult, they end up leaving. PCF will not leave."

World's biggest

Much of the money the Beckingham-helped raise has helped make possible PCF's most innovative and meditative project yet—a new school large enough to educate 1,000 children until college.

When 72 shipping container cans making up the walls and classrooms, the structure will be the world's largest school made from recycled materials. It is scheduled to open in February 2010.

The project is a true collaborative effort involving contributions of money or resources, engineering and Filipino volunteer architects and engineers, and corporate donations of containers and building supplies by APL Co., Ltd., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Holcim and Hydex.

Also for the current school is a converted warehouse located in the heart of a squatter area close to the Pasig River, the new school a building on Interior Mountain will make a world of difference to the students.

Less solar than the garbage being sorted around the school, here we find many infrastructures, more safety and no flooding (as among the houses, as are proper facilities, computer rooms, libraries, a science lab, a self-service canteen and play areas for the kids).

Most of the elders are uneducated, which makes providing the parents basic skills as important as educating their children.

Courses on good parenting, financial planning, family planning, nutrition, prenatal and primary health care, reproductive health, and advice on how to recognize sex predators are also offered.

And because PCF believes in a holistic approach to helping the community, it provides adult literacy courses, unwed-al classes, family counseling, an advocacy program focused on children's rights, a livelihood and skills training program on making products from recycled materials, and even materials for home repair.

More to be done

Ambassador Beckingham spoke with pride of PCF's work. "No one benefiting is really growing from one of the poorest areas of Manila is very exciting. What has been accomplished is tremendous and very imaginative. And I am delighted that in a very small way there has been some British involvement."

Jill Beckingham plans to return to the Philippines for the opening of the new school, and will continue her fundraising efforts from London in her own role as chair of the UK board of trustees of PCF.

"The will have 16 percent left of the new school to complete, and since it's open, we need to cover the running costs. Feeding the children alone will cost P750,000 a month. I will launch on the doors of whoever has funds to give. There is still so much more that needs to be done…" she said.

GMA, entourage dined in Le Cirque in NY for P1M

From page A1

ner and expensive wine at a time of economic difficulty is beyond me."

Richard Johnson wrote the travel report in the Page Six "Eat and Drink" section of the NY Post online edition.

It read: "The economic downturn hasn't persuaded everyone to pinch pennies. Philippines President Mario Glorioso Macapagal-Arroyo was at Le Cirque the other night with a large entourage chowing the good life, even though the former cooperative of her country's armed services, Carlos Garcia, was found guilty earlier this week of pocketing millions of his country's defense budget in the US on bulk-ordering glitzy shopping. Macapagal-Arroyo entered several facilities of very expensive wine, pushing the dinner tab up to $20,000."

'Just dinner'

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde, who was with the President's entourage, did not respond to calls yesterday.

But he sent a text message explaining that it was Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez who hosted the Aug. 1 dinner for the President and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

It was Congressman Martin Romualdez who invited the First Couple to dinner at Le Cirque in New York. As to how much the dinner cost, Malacañang does not know as it was the host who chose the menu and picked up the tab," Remonde said.

"There was no partying. Just dinner, pure and simple," he said.

The Inquirer managed to reach Romualdez yesterday afternoon by phone. He said he was busy at the moment but cannot there were people with him, and that he would call back.

He never did. The Inquirer tried to reach him again several times later in the day but he did not pick up.

Mr. Arroyo and her entourage flew to the United States for a working visit on July 29.

She met with President Barack Obama at the White House on the night of July 30—the high point of her visit—and left Washington close to New York for a series of meetings with multinational companies.

The President was followed at the Waldorf-Astoria, several blocks away from Le Cirque, where she stays in New York.

Caviar and champagne

Mr Arroyo arrived back in Manila early on Aug. 5, and seven months in Manila Cathedral where the remains of former President Corazon Aquino lie in state, to pay her last respects.

The pan-priced menu included caviar; lamb appetizers as lobster salad; wild burgundy escargot; and soft shell crab tempura; main courses of black cod, halibut, flower coin, medallo of lamb and prime ribeyed' strip steak; and Kona champagne at $5.11 a bottle.

Reuters flavors considered it is was "appropriate for a head of state of a Third World country like Mrs. Arroyo to relax and dine in such a manner, given that we're in the midst of a crisis."

"This is one dinner that certainly hurts a bad taste in the mouth, at least for five of the Filipino people," he said.

IN THE KNOW

LE CIRQUE IN NEW YORK: Gay is a favorite hangout of such prominent personalities as Barbara Walters, Woody Allen, Bill Cosby, Paloma Picasso and Mayor Bloomberg.

Serving high society for more than 30 years, Le Cirque, owned by Italian Sirio Maccioni, describes itself as a place "where the worlds of food, fashion, art and culture converge."

The dress code is formal.

The 6,000-square-foot restaurant on East 58th Street has a 65-seat main dining room, a 60-seat bar room and a private event mezzanine.

It has a 38,000-item wine cave carrying about 2,000 bottles of red wine. Bottles of white wine are stored in a separate location.

The wines' price tags range from $28 to $12,000.

Because of its remarkable wine list, Le Cirque has won the Wine Spectator's Grand Award every year since 1986.

(AFWE, Bloomberg, Inquirer Research)

Sources: www.lecirque.com www.nypost.com www.menupages.com

Reuters said that even if it was more likely picked up by the rich, it still did not look "appropriate."

Embarrassing

"It's embarrassing for the Philippines to have such scenes appear in a foreign paper. It begs the question, what is Mrs. Arroyo really doing during her trips? Are taxpayers being made to shoulder the lavish lifestyles of the so-called rich and famous?" he said.

Reyes also said the mention of Garcia in the report was a sad commentary on Philippine officials' reputation as corrupt.

"This connections display of influence, connivance of [newspaper Ferdinand Marcos' widow] Imelda Marcos reinforces the perception that Philippine officials are corrupt and are living it up while others suffer in order to make much of the affair.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez said he remembered dining with the President in a New York restaurant but added that the place did not seem "fashionable."

Suarez said there were probably more expensive restaurants in New York's financial district.

Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa said she doubted that a dinner bill during the trip could reach $20,000.

Villarosa said the committee had dining at Le Cirque but not the details because the lead several members and did not during the trip.

She said she did not think that the bill could run that high because carriage were held to US restrictions and members of Mr Arroyo's party usually shared their cabins.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said he missed the dinner because he came down with a cold and a cough in New York.

Hypocrisy

"The extravagance showed the Arroyo administration's inconsistency and hypocrisy," Bisaya said, adding that the dinner was held hours before Mrs Arroyo and her party flew back to Manila ostensibly to rush former President Aquino's wake.

Bisaya said spending a huge amount of money equivalent to thirty supermarket for almost 5,000 poor families appeared to be Mr Arroyo's idea of honoring and respecting Aquino.

"What they did was deplorable, especially if taxpayer money was spent. If they spent private money what they did was so bad more and again showed inconsistency to the millions of Filipinos who live "hanggo daily," he said. With reports from Zaida Salcedo in and Nikko Catherine Gaffud

Across the NATION

'Kiko' death toll in Luzon rises to 20

By the Inquirer Northern Luzon and Inquirer Central Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEATH toll from floods and landslides spawned by rains from Typhoon "Kiko" in Central and Northern Luzon climbed to 20 yesterday after some teams confirmed that 10 bodies retrieved were buried by landslides in Baguio City on Friday.

Among the 20 fatalities is a man from Zambales who died of a heart attack at the height of the typhoon.

In Baguio, the bodies of nine victims were recovered yesterday, while another, who was rescued on Friday, died in a hospital here after yesterday.

Some of the dead miners took part in a rescue effort that went wrong on Friday when a landslide buried a shaft-mine Liedes Creek in Barangay Slaf Proper 5, where small-scale mining goes on even

Only five of the 10 dead miners have been identified—Rolito Habang, Eddie Dalmeran, Philip Bangsalan and Bryan Bay-ong.

Roger Dalmeran, who was rescued with eight other miners on Friday, died at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Police said Habang and Dalmeran were inside the shaft with other miners when the landslide came at around 9 a.m. on Friday.

Bangsalan, Dalmeran and Bay-ong were among 17 miners who had tried to rescue colleagues when a second slide buried them.

Government rescue workers were alerted to the second slide and rescued the initial nine rescuers Friday afternoon.

Chief Supt. Orlando Petilla, Cordillera police chief, said four more miners were missing.

Sor Bontilo called off the search at 1:30 p.m. because of strong rains.

In Zambales, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the Idinnitor-Iraq branch in the Shein Hills, which flooded up to 12 villages in Bocaue town, has to be repaired as soon as the rains stop.

"That's the most important thing right now," Ebdane said.

He said the repair will cost at least P220 million.

The section of the national highway passing through Hermosa, Bataan, was impassable yesterday.

Gov. Enrique Ebdane said the Bataan rescue team is helping in relief efforts and attending to the needs of displaced residents.

Bocaue Mayor Roger Yap appealed for help as 2,000 families would have to stay in evacuation centers until the dike area repaired, which could take two weeks.

Yap said it was the first time the town, 35 km west of Mt. Pinatubo, was flooded.

Food was distributed to the displaced families but Yap said they needed blankets, mats, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, underwear and clothes because "they had not been able to take anything with them except what they were."

The Bocaue portion of the national highway between Pampanga and Zambales continued to be an area best of water and impassable.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council reported a loss to places related fatality in Zambales—Reynoso Dumaplin—who died of a heart attack during the typhoon.

In Mayon Jolo, MWSI personnel cleared a lane of the mountain highway in Camalaniugan town of read and rocks last Friday.

More than 4,000 vehicles were rescued in the area for 36 hours. *Reports from Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza and Elmar Ibrahim Bendijo, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Tonette Orejas, Robert Garonga and Analiza Rapas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

BAGUIO police go through the grim task of processing unidentified bodies of miners, kept in black body bags, killed in a landslide in Barangay Slaf in Baguio City.

Subic income exceeds target despite recession

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—CUSTOMHOUSE of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's seaport department have exceeded their target for 2009, surprisingly due to the crisis affecting the world's major economies, officials have said.

SBMA seaport manager, Nicanor Bonoan, said in a statement that the monthly collection this year have surpassed all records since 1993.

The agency posted P37.82 million in January, P41.37 million in February, P54.81 million in March, P46.69 million in April, P41.07 million in May, P40.48 million in June, and P43.24 million in July.

He said collections from vessels laid up in Subic Bay, as well as other fees on imported products, boosted seaport revenue to P347.71 million, or P3.02 million more than the target for this year.

The amount represented a 13.7 percent growth over 2008 figures, it was learned.

Figures from the SBMA seaport department showed that from January to July, the agency collected P131.23 million in vessel charges, P51.67 million in cargo charges, P121.56 million in processing fees, P94.62 million in lease and rentals, and P1 million in other charges.

These figures included P68.3 million from fees paid by hold-up vessels, P39.8 million in wharfage on grains, wheat, fertilizer and rice, and P11.3 million in wharfage on imported petroleum products.

The P530.73-million collection from January to July 2009 was 107.7 percent more than the target for the same seven-month period, the SBMA said. *Robert Garonga, Inquirer Central Luzon*

MyVote.MyTurn.

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____ (ISSUE/TOPIC).

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INQUIRER

Monday, our Research Department will collate the results which will be posted in the section. Entries filled with good-thinking/eureka ideas/innovative approach/promise-type answers will receive surprise prizes.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

Boracay land titling to start

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—Land claimants and occupants on Boracay Island will hopefully have their prized properties titled soon after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday announced the start of the cadastral survey on the island.

In a meeting with business owners and property claimants here Friday night, Environment Secretary Jesselito Atienza Jr. said the survey would be the basis for the issuance of titles for areas classified as alienable and disposable.

The field survey, which will start on Monday and cover the whole 1,032-hectare island, is expected to be completed in five months.

Only about a third of the land in Boracay have titles while the rest are being occupied through tax declarations after the world-famous island resort was declared government property.

Atienza said the survey is in line with the Supreme Court ruling on land ownership on the island.

In a ruling on Oct. 6, 2008, the Supreme Court affirmed Proclamation 1064 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 22, 2006.

The proclamation classified 628.96 hectares, or 60.84 percent of the 1,032-hectare island, as alienable and disposable on the premise that the whole of Boracay is government property. The proclamation also provides for a 15-meter buffer zone on each side of the center line of roads and trails, which are reserved for right of way and which shall form part of the area reserved for forest land protection purposes.

Land claimants and owners who have invested hundreds of millions of pesos for decades on the island expressed fear of losing their properties as other investors because of the proclamation and Supreme Court ruling.

But in Friday's meeting with property claimants, Atienza assured those with legitimate claims and investments that their rights would be respected.

"We want to reasonably comply with the Supreme Court ruling but will not disregard [the] businesses and investments," Atienza said.

Atienza said titled lands would be respected in the titling of properties while those covered by tax declarations would be reviewed to check when and how the declarations were acquired.

He also announced that the DENR has formed a new task force to handle land titling and other concerns in the area.

The task force, headed by Domeniano Ignacio Jr., environment undersecretary for policy and planning, will coordinate with an 11-member committee of Boracay stakeholders on the implementation of the survey and land titling.

The committee includes representatives of the Boracay Foundation Inc. and the Boracay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

BORACAY'S world-famous white sand beach is the island's only attraction, but one which draws hundreds of tourists daily and puts enormous pressure on a piece of the island's environment.

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Editor Jim Bandayrel
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Solar energy ends darkness in town

By Nina Pilar de Guzman-Pfahler
Pilar Reporter

SOLAR panels ready for installation are lined up in a street in Poblacion, Sultan Kudarat, that has not seen electricity since it became a town. ROY VINCENT

UNLIKE OTHER off-grid towns in the country, Poblacion in Sultan Kudarat province rejoices on sunny days and gloomy nights.

Credit that to solar energy and renewable energy sources that help protect the environment and reduce the country's dependence on traditional energy sources. Homeowners are also convinced that the steady stock of sun power is more reliable compared to what people get from the grid.

Solar energy, considered the most available alternative source, is being harnessed by the government to lessen the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels whose prices have been continuously going up.

Even a lighthouse town, Poblacion looked promisingly stuck in the dicta can where time seemed to have stood still. But this is not Poblacion, a land where people do everything manually because that's the way it has been for years.

Brand made and global brands are similarly unfamiliar sights. Most people are subsistence farmers, making less than P50 a day.

Poblacion, with 49,000 people—about half live without access to electricity—is not likely to be connected to the grid any time in the foreseeable future as commercial electric providers find it inefficient and uneconomical to link the town to the national grid.

The hard life

The national grid stops in Midtown town of Tamagaki province, so users of the feeder experience hard life without a single light bulb.

Two years ago, solar energy came to town and changed everything. Thanks to the Earth's most powerful source of energy.

Now the 40 villages in Poblacion have taken a giant step into the 21st century—including those small hamlets where people go to bed at 7 p.m. because there is no candlelight.

Now 400 villagers

NEWS

RP flag flies at half-staff for Cory on Asean Day

By Nikko Dizon

JAKARTA—IT WAS A POIGNANT SIGHT ON A day of celebration.

The Philippine flag at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) headquarters here was not flying at the top of its pole alongside those of nine other nations to mark the regional organization's 42nd anniversary yesterday. The Philippine tricolor was fluttering at half-staff, in mourning for former President Corazon Aquino.

More than 200 dignitaries, led by Asean Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan, gathered on the Asean secretariat grounds to mark the anniversary of the regional bloc with a flag-raising ceremony. The Asean anthem was sung by an Indonesian choir.

Almost everyone knew why the Philippine flag was brought back down to half-mast after being raised to the top of the pole.

"Look at the Philippine flag ... can't go up ... Mrs. Aquino died," one guest was overheard by the Inquirer telling a friend as the flag ceremony began.

The flags of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Burma (Myanmar) and Brunei, as well as Asean's blue flag, waved from the top of their poles.

An Asean honor guard in red and white marched and saluted the flags.

Philippine permanent representative to Asean, Ambassador Orlando Mercado, said the nation's flag would fly at half-staff until the end of the 10-day mourning period for Aquino declared by the Philippine government.

Mercado said he and Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Victor Ouano had been receiving expressions of condolence from colleagues in the diplomatic corps since Aquino, who was 76, died of cardiac arrest on Aug. 1.

Ouano also held a book of condolences opened at his official residence in Jakarta for people to pay their respects to the Philippine icon of democracy.

Mercado, however, said he saw one Philippine flag flying with the red band on top as part of the offices in the Indonesian capital.

"I immediately informed Ambassador Ouano to have it corrected. He said it might have been because Indonesians are used to having the red band on top," Mercado said.

The Indonesian flag has a red band above and a white band below it.

Some yesterday led an unprecedented three-country diplomatic tour in one day to celebrate Asean Day.

Nearly 200 diplomats and guests traveled from Jakarta to Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok on board the Philippine low-cost airline, Air Asia, to reflect the bright road map to the organization's

Aplus METRO
Editor Rinalyn S. Viray

Las Piñas folk find cash in pesky water plant

By Nitz Catherine Calleja

THIS WAS SEEN A COMMON sight along the river banks of Las Piñas City: A flock of villagers wearing sun-dried water lilies and carrying them from baskets, bags, slippers, and other decorative items.

For four years, the fast-growing industry of water lily weaving has helped some 200 families bring food to their tables and send their children to school.

Their main raw materials are water lilies, also known as water hyacinths, which women freely gather in the murky waters of Las Piñas and Zapote rivers.

Now, the products have been in demand in international markets especially during the Christmas season, said Evangeline Dalusa, coordinator of the water lily livelihood project initiated by Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar.

"These products are widely patronized by local buyers and have found a niche in the United States, Japan, and European markets," Villar said.

The Las Piñas residents showcased these products and achievements during the recent 9th Water Lily Festival.

At the kickoff ceremony, the Al-Adhan dance group performed while the Las Piñas Bayan mini lyre bands played. Apart from the water lily fashion show, the city's 20 barangays put up colorful booths where they displayed their product specialties.

Finding jobs

Nini Bobis, information officer of Villar, said the villagers doing the riverbanks who were usually unemployed, easily learned the procedure of weaving water lilies.

"From 10 housewives in 20 and then to 200, the project responds yearly," she said.

Dalusa said weaving eventually became a family affair in at least five barangays such as Talon Dos, Bernabe, CAA, and Pulo. "These people (along the river) were seen before dawdling outside playing cards and bingo," she said in Filipino.

Some of the families take the work home and encourage their children to help while others choose to work at the Las Piñas Arts and Crafts Corner where all the raw materials are immediately available.

A family earns over P300 daily during slack season and about P600 daily during the peak months.

Save the rivers

Before the livelihood project's conception in October 2005, residents thought that the water lilies are pests that caused harm to the environment as to the growth triggers heavy floods during torrential rains.

A TRAINER (right) demonstrates how to make water lily baskets.

A LAMP shade serves not only as a durable household product but a beautiful decorative piece as well.

SLIPPERS made from water lily are one of the products in high demand in international markets.

Dalusa said it narrowed to a point that all our canny houses were submerged in the flood waters after a monsoon rain.

The city government, then, launched the "Sagip Ilog Project," a river rehabilitation program which required members to clean up and dredge the two rivers.

Dalusa recalled how its members were so confused when to get all the water lilies. "We just harvest them but we don't know what to do with them," she said.

Good thing a Las Piñas entrepreneur, Ophelia Ia, taught some residents how water lilies could be turned into woven baskets, she said.

She should begin harvesting water lily stalks, then dry it inside the sun or through the oven. The weaving starts after the curing and bending, the wire which will be used as the basket's frame.

Workers will then put finishing touches like dye or varnish on the baskets.

Dalusa said that through the years, they have noted a downtrend in the harvest of water lily stalks. From 15,000 stalks of water lilies weekly in 2005, it's now down to 5,000.

As a result, their group has started rationing new water lilies after every harvest. "This is to keep up with the current supply demands," Ophelia said, adding Japanese importers have been requesting 1,000 pieces of slippers weekly.

"But we would always negotiate because we lacked manpower and the water lilies we get from the river were no longer enough," she said.

Recently weaving water lilies into usable products was also adopted by other cities and towns in Metro Manila, Laguna, and Cavite. The technology is also being taught in communities of Isabela, Pangasinan, Davao, South Cotabato, and Lanao del Sur.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL youths, men, and housewives weave water lily mats for sibling, bowl, water lily baskets made by Las Piñas residents.

"WALK THE TALK, WHERE'S THE 'social asylum'? Ask our people!! OFWs and exporters have been complaining for months about the delayed economic

MAR ROXAS, December 2007

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio
Email it to global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Filipino priest tends migrant flock

Fr. Tony Palina set up the first Philippine Parish Migration Desk in Ibiza, Spain's luxury resort island

By Cynthea Rapozada-Claveria
Contributor

MADRID—Simple pleas and a noble purpose were all they had to offer the Filipino flock in the resort island of Ibiza, Spain.

But Fr. Jose Antonio Palina, the first Filipino priest delegated to the resort's White Island, and a handful of parishioners, three were all they needed to serve an estimated 2,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) on the island.

Seeing that lack of information regarding their rights and benefits was a major problem of Filipinos overseas, Palina and his parishioners set up the first Filipino Parish Migration Desk (PMD) in Spain.

"Many OFWs do not benefit from government programs simply because they do not know about them," said Father Tony, as Palina is fondly called.

The desk, located at the San Rosario Parish in Ibiza, is operated by 40 Filipino migrant volunteers of mixed religious affiliations, offering guidance and information particularly on issues of crisis.

The PMD is also a one-stop information center, with free Internet, small shower, small snack and drinks corner.

> 'This is not an association, it is a ministry'

Volunteers coordinate their time, effort and sometimes even their own resources to keep the project going. They work by downloading basic and authoritative information from government agencies. They then pass it on to the busy OFWs, most of whom are technical persons who seek overseas employment procedures.

The 45-year-old priest, who acts as the PMD program director, emphasized that the PMD "is not an organization or an association" but a ministry that claims its Christ's mission and the Church.

An eye-opener

There is a history to why Fr. Tony repeatedly stresses the openness of the PMD.

Not long ago in Ibiza, a 30-year-old OFW named Maria Fine died of colon cancer.

Although Fine was confined to my parish, I was not made immediately available. Because the necessary paperwork and money were lacking.

Relatives of the deceased had sought the help of a Filipino association in Ibiza to bring child the 8,000 euros needed to bring the remains of Nina to the Philippines.

But the group leader in that time, Rita Barangan, reported-

FR. TONY with Filipino wives and lovers in Ibiza, a favorite playground of the rich and famous in Europe

ly said she could not help because their visit not a member of their association.

"Maganyan na lang daw ako ng mga ng Apat. It was told to pawa land mike instead)," said Jolvia de Villa, 37, Jhun's wife.

Fr. Tony who had some experiences in intervention work in Lebanon, started efforts to help the helpless Filipinos. He called it his "mission impossible" but was also told that Ibiza, not being a crowding could not avail of its organization purposes.

In the end, only the "Ingatan Ang" (cooperative spirit) of the PMD and "community building" helped save Fine's remains for burial.

Then joined as an eye-opener to the Filipino parishioners in Ibiza.

That was when Fr. Tony vowed to help the plight of helpless OFWs.

A migrant ministry

Fr. Tony also had some experience working with OFWs during his earlier posting at the Cagayan Valley Diocese. He knew volunteerism was the key to the ministry.

"The main volunteers are here, the younger and more capable are the ones," he said.

The group members are all potential leaders, he said, adding that they do most of the legwork and networking. Among them are Florence Bellinden, Mayla Jimenez, Nilda Ella, Maribel Silao, 35, some ex-officio, Lionel Abara, Arthur Claveria, Ariel Claveria and Richard Silao.

The PMD steering committee believes that "ignorance is the key to any limitations."

"The PMD was formed to do research and coordinate with any proper authorities to be able to give information to OFWs about their basic problems—like the governmental rulebooks they are entitled to," Silao, the PMD secretary, explained.

The PMD shares the information it gathers with other OFW groups in the area by Filipino islands, whose members connect directly the PMD base.

PMD networking

In a visit to the PMD last year, Ernesto Ordoñez II, Philippine Labor attaché to Spain, and Connie Mangun, POEA officer at Ramon PMD on their picnic.

"This is the first migrant work-site center," Mangun had acknowledged.

The PMD has also linked up with the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) in Barcelona which has twice rendered consular services—assisted of seminars available purposes (MRP), application for dual citizenship, and Dominican Alliance for Voting registrations, among others—in southern Spain, with the assistance of the PMD volunteers.

The activity saved hundreds of OFWs from spending up to 200 euros each in airfare to avail of the services at the PCG offices in the peninsula.

"The PMD service has helped me fellow Filipinos in a big way," Lucrecia Ermil, 36, a parishioner observed.

The PMD director stressed that the ministry "assists and helps the limited personnel of governmental agencies ... for the reduction of the suffering and their families, without taking on the work that the government agencies should do."

Uniting the Community

For a long time, Filipinos, especially the illegal ones, constantly immigrants to the mid-70s, had no leader to turn to for help on migration issues. The Filipino community now views Father.

Fr. Tony acknowledges that his main task as a priest is to preach and teach the gospel. He has been entrusted for going beyond the mandate of providing "spiritual guidance and pastoral care" to his flock.

"Maganyan sila, kaya ang gusto [Let them talk, let us do the work]," he replied.

With the new 6 km mission left in his three-year mission in the Mediterranean, Fr. Tony said he is starting to leave a solid foundation so PMD members can continue with the ministry. He also hopes the PMD could be replicated in other parts of the world.

"At the end, we decide that everyone becomes a providence, we and volunteers for that matter, his ministry. It is high time we spell out the best in us. It's [given: are intelligent, hard-working and industrious]," he added.

VICE CONSUL ARTHUR CALVE (center) with Fr. Tony and the volunteers of the San Domingo Parish (seated) in Ibiza. PMD members (standing) work with government agencies

Diplomats and NGOs need to work together

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

IT WAS IN HONG KONG where labor attaché Bernardita R. Auhre faced one of his greatest challenges. In 2003, the Legislative Assembly of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region called for a reduction of the salary of foreign domestic helpers.

"The challenge was to oppose the plan, and even more challenging was how to enlist the Filipinos in Hong Kong behind the opposition to the plan," Auhre said in an interview.

A native of Carmonal, Surigao del Sur, Auhre met the task at hand with great courage. Petitioned Asian members of the Diplomatic or Consular Corps from participating to rallies against the local government.

Nevertheless, the did not stop Auhre from extending a hand to the overseas Filipino protestors. "The most unforgettable experience was observing up and giving words of encouragement to the leaders and protestors who had massed in Victoria Park," he recalled.

"And my presence been brought to the attention of the host Hong Kong] government, a protest letter would have been sent to the consulate and more, I could have been declared persona non grata and asked to be sent home," he said.

That event led him to the conviction that there are some issues that are too important to let pass and therefore, it pays enough to break protocol.

Through his career his career, Auhre, a former assistant Secretary for Regional Operations at the Department of Labor and Employment, said he had an urgent about his participation in these protest events. But during the liberal attitude of the Hong Kong government, Auhre did not receive any diplomatic action.

As a result, the HK legislature did not push through with its plan to reduce the salary of the foreign domestic workers, many of whom are Filipinos. "So in other words, we won!" Auhre said, beaming enthusiastic.

A recruitment mission, too

In 2008, Auhre was assigned to open the Labor office at the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong, Canada.

"I was a new office ... There were no rules, no system, no body to rely on, and I had to start from scratch," said Auhre. He took included facilitating the employment of a number of workers hired in the hospitality and service industry in anticipation of the 2010 winter Olympics which Canada will host.

Asked what he thinks are the Filipino workers' need from the others, he said: "The ability to adjust to working conditions."

With his desire to assist not only the Filipinos already but also his countrymen back home who are aspiring to work in Canada, Auhre negotiated the first British Columbia (B.C.) recruitment mission to the Philippines and also co-drafted the final version of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Human Resource Development and Deployment with the Province of Alberta.

The memorandum under the process of recruitment easier and simpler. The MOU also enables more ethical and orderly deployment of our workers, he said.

The memorandum, signed in Manila last Oct. 1, 2008, by Labor Secretary Marianito Roque and B.C. Minister of Labor Hector Goudreau, was designed to protect Filipino workers from unethical who charge exorbitant placement fees and prevent them from falling into the trap of illegal recruiters.

"OFWs should be protected and not exploited in order for them to live a decent life and achieve their lofty aspirations for their families back home," he added.

Like many OFWs, Auhre has been scattered around the world, but he still considers the Philippines his "true true home."

LABOR attaché Bernardita R. Auhre recalls HK struggle for legislated wages. CONTRIBUTION

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Ambassador A Soborsyah

IN 2009, WE CELEBRATE two auspicious anniversaries. On August 9th, Singapore celebrates its 44th National Day. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Philippines.

With the global financial markets recovering from the recent turmoil, life has been a challenging year for both Singapore and the Philippines. Both countries are weathering this storm well. When it passes, we hope to emerge stronger, more and better positioned to face future challenges.

Our countries share a belief that economic development is a vital ingredient of growth, stability and prosperity. Our bilateral cooperation has matured to economic ties that go back. As good neighbours and old friends, we have traveled well, bilaterally, and within Asean to advance our shared interests.

As I look back on the past year, I am delighted with the excellent trade in Singapore's bilateral relations with the Philippines. Our economic relationship is robust. Despite the recession, Singapore is the second largest investor in

The WORLD

Lilia Lorente B. Guico

Top JI terrorist Noordin reported killed

BEJI, INDONESIA—SOUTHEAST ASIA'S MOST wanted terror suspect was reportedly killed during a 16-hour siege on a suspected militant hideout that ended Saturday when police stormed the house.

Local TV stations reported militant chief Noordin Mohammad Top, who is blamed for last month's attacks on two American hotels in the capital Jakarta, was killed in the bathroom of the house in a rice-growing village in central Java province following a lengthy bomb and gun battle.

Those reports were not confirmed by police. DNA tests will likely have to be performed to ensure the identification.

The suicide attacks on the JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in the capital, Jakarta killed nine people, most of them foreigners, and broke a four-year gap in major strikes in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Noordin is also believed to have played a major role in four other bombings in Indonesia since 2002, including nightclub attacks on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, mainly foreigners.

Killing or capturing him would be a major victory in Indonesia's fight against militants and could significantly weaken the chances of more attacks, given the key position, financial and motivational role he is believed to have played in terror networks.

Police spokesperson Nanan Sukarna said officers believed Noordin, who is Southeast Asia's most wanted militant suspect, and two or three of his followers were inside, but could not immediately confirm their ties.

Minutes after the raid, witnesses said officers outside the house took off their helmets and were shaking hands with each other, suggesting all those inside had either been killed or captured. The firing ceased.

A police officer at the scene said a body was found in the bathroom of the house and no gunshots brought a coffin there. After about one hour, three ambulances left the house.

Earlier Saturday officers raided a second house close to the capital Jakarta where they shot and killed two suspected militants and seized bombs and a car rigged to carry them, said Police Brig. Gen. Bambang Hendarso Danuri.

Danuri said one of those arrested had reserved a room in one of the hotels that was used by the terrorists before they attacked.

The house was about five kilometers from the residence of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The Detik.com website, quoting an unnamed police source, said officers believed Yudhoyono's house could have been planning an attack there.

Officers circled the house in central Java province late Friday afternoon after making arrests in a nearby town. At one point, they sent remote-controlled robots in as the isolated building in search for booby-traps.

Not long before they ventured inside, officers could be heard demand in black helmet a shield fired into the house from close range, while others fired repeated volleys from a hill behind it.

Indonesian police have been met with booby-traps and suicide bombers as they have gone after cells in a terrorist hideout and approached the house with extreme caution.

Noordin is a Malaysian citizen who claimed in a video in 2005 to be al-Qaida's representative in Southeast Asia said to be carrying out attacks on Western civilians to avenge Muslim deaths in Afghanistan.

Indonesian police have arrested more than 200 militants associated with the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network since 2002, including many with ties to Noordin, who they say has narrowly escaped capture several times.

Police have offered a $100,000 reward for information leading to his capture. Experts say Noordin was likely being hidden by a small network of sympathizers who might not agree with his tactics, but nevertheless believe they have a duty to shelter him.

Java, home to more than half of Indonesia's 220 million people, has long been the focus in the fight for Noordin and his associates.

In November 2005, Azahari bin Husin, a top Jemaah Islamiyah bomb maker, was finally shot by counterterrorism forces in east Java. Azahari Jabir, another explosives expert, was killed in April 2006 during a raid on a mid-sized hideout in central Java.

Prosecutors say Noordin orchestrated the 2002 bombings on Bali, an earlier attack on the JW Marriott Hotel in 2003, a blast outside the Australian Embassy in 2004, and triple suicide bombings on restaurants in Bali in 2005.

Al-Qaida is believed to have helped fund the first three attacks.

Together, the four strikes killed more than 240 people, many of them Western tourists. —AP

HIDDEN Mohammad Top in Indonesia police mug shot. —

WORLDBRIEFS

US job losses slow, signaling rebound under way

THE MOST heartening US employment report since last summer surrounded us Friday: that a recovery was under way — and perhaps gathering steam — despite the reluctance of the nation's businesses to resume hiring or even stop shedding jobs. Employers eliminated 247,000 jobs in July, a huge number by the standards of an ordinary recession, but this smallest monthly loss since last August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. And the unemployment rate, rising for months, actually ticked down, to 9.4 percent from 9.5 percent in June, evenly lessened as many people dropped out of the hunt for work, ceasing to list themselves as unemployed. "Employers are no longer in a panic," said Ian C. Shepherdson, chief domestic economist for High Frequency Economics. "The pressure they felt to get rid of workers in a hurry is diminishing. What we don't see yet is enough momentum in the economy to convince companies to hire again." Obama administration officials credited the stimulus package, enacted in February, for the continuing improvement, from a peak of 741,000 jobs lost in January. Some said the July loss would have been closer to 300,000 without the stimulus. A week earlier, the government announced another significant improvement — the overall economy contracted at an annual rate of only one percent in the spring quarter, vastly better than the fall and winter months. The two reports have convinced many forecasters that these summer months will prove to be the big turning point, when growth returned. —NYT

Scores killed in spate of bombings in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A series of bombing attacks against Shiites on Friday near the northern city of Mosul and in Baghdad killed at least 45 people and wounded hundreds, police officials said. The bombings, apparently intended to inflame sectarian tensions, coincided with the end of an important Shiite religious occasion. They came just two days after Iraq and Kuwait hit all-time lows when Baghdad's exam marks — amid the chief of Baghdad's operations command, Maj. Gen. Abud Qanbar, declared that "security is not an issue anymore" — and one week after five Shiite mosques in Baghdad were bombed in coordinated attacks, killing at least 35. —NYT

US calls for Suu Kyi's unconditional release

WASHINGTON—The United States called on Friday for the unconditional release of Burma (Myanmar) democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and urged the country's military rulers to begin a process of national reconciliation. The appeal marked the 21st anniversary of the 1988 popular democratic uprising in Burma that was suppressed by the military junta. Bur mese ruling junta has kept Suu Kyi in detention for nearly 14 of the past 20 years since it refused to recognize her National League for Democracy party's landslide victory in 1990 elections. —AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
Growling Tigers tame Maroons
/A22

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Philandria
Assistant Editor Rhando T.J. Ochoa

Powerade-RP 5 turns back Japan

By Marvong R. Castillo

TIANJIN, CHINA—GETTY/GUIDO SYMAKSIEWICZ/GETTY IMAGES Tenorio and Jacop a little higher Friday night, veteran Ad Tenorio helped carry Powerade-Philippines to its biggest Fiba Asia win ever since the pros started carrying the country's colors.

And it got to now—at least for now—talk that he is the Philippines' primary big man of the past, most especially with the future still tinkering definitely on the bench.

Tenorio scored all but two of his 11 points in the final period and had eight boards in a 79-69 victory by Powerade-Philippines over Japan which boosted its chances to reach the quarterfinal round of the Fiba Asia qualifying for next year's world championship.

"That was my twin brother out there," Tenorio jokingly told Filipinos reporters after the marquee game at the Tianjin gym here, where the Philippines got no added boost from the Chinese crowd who stood behind and rooted for the Filipinos.

The 29-year-old Tenorio used most of the 17 minutes he was on the floor harassing the Japanese defense, controlling practically every loose ball and defending like crazy to fire up the Philippine crew which trailed by as many as 11 points in the first period.

The Filipinos also drew dutiful plays from Cyrus Baguio while Dicking their three-point shots when they needed them most, including three triples from James Yap, who endured the worst day here Thursday.

With two straight wins, the Philippines despite the Group A top spot against Korea in a game going up on penalties. At their best, they can withstand the Filipinos by hosting at least one of the Group B qualifiers in the second round starting 30 today.

"I cannot take credit for the win," said coach Yeng Guiao, who, despite blowing a 19-point lead against Japan in the Jones Cup in Taipei, practically guaranteed a win in this tournament with his we can handle Japan statement.

"They rolled themselves to win the game," he added. "We didn't expect to beat them (Japanese) that way. Or a big margin. This is a stepping stone for us towards playing better against Korea."

Tenorio, the #9 overall pick in the Asian Games in 2006, has been relegated to backup since the arrival of the younger Japeth Aguilar from Silliman University to the United States.

Aguilar sat out the game because of a shinsplint injury but his unexpected look against the Koreans, who clobbered the Japanese last Tuesday.

Undersized center Sonny Thoss also took the cudgels for Aguilar, tossing in a team-high 15 points to go with eight rebounds, and Willie Miller threw his weight around for 10 more and four more.

The Japanese started to a 18-9 lead with a layup that had three centers in the Takeuchi twins, Aoi and Kotoki, tied 64-64 on Shunsuke Ito.

But the Filipinos methodically came back, getting key hits from Ato Agustin, Mick Pennisi with three-pointers and Cyrus Baguio, who aroused the crowd with several highlight-reel plays, including a layup which gave the Philippines a 52-51 lead late in the third.

If they win against Korea, the Filipinos will take a Group A-best 2-0 record into the next phase since their 84-point win over eliminated Sri Lanka will not count. In that case, Korea will have a 1-1 record but Japan a 0-2 slate.

They will then play the qualifiers from Group B, which will have four with a 2-0 record, and Chinese Taipei and Kuwait with 1-1 slates.

Iran topped Group B with a 94-46 decision of Kuwait, while other Saturday games saw the Taiwanese improve to 2-1 with a 102-78 ripping of Uzbekistan even as Jordan swept its group with a 79-67 triumph over the United Arab Emirates.

The Philippines should win over Kuwait to remain in contention even if it loses to Korea. Only the top four teams after later group play will proceed to the 8-9 final fights.

THE PHILIPPINES' Willie Miller shoots past Japan's Ryo Igarashi (left) and Koji Takeuchi.

PBA board holds Tianjin meeting

By Marvong R. Castillo

TIANJIN, CHINA—ASIDE FROM SEVERAL drama GFDs who cheered for Powerade-Filipinos against Japan Friday night, the Filipinos gained the support of several Iranian and Chinese fans who stayed for the late night game even after their home team's victory over Kazakhstan.

And not only were the Chinese cheering and clapping every good play by Team Filipinas, they were also booing—and booing with passion—the Japanese almost every time they touched the ball.

In fact, after the warm-up and before the introduction of players from both squads where the national anthems of both countries are played, the Chinese blatantly booed the Japanese anthem and clapped after the "Lupang Hinirang" was played.

Some say the Chinese have a long memory, that they haven't forgotten the time when Japan occupied their country.

* * *

Members of the PBA's board of governors, led by incoming chair Libi Alvarez of Barangay Ginebra, arrived Saturday afternoon to hold their annual meeting and plan the direction of next's first play-by-play league for the coming season.

It will be business with pleasure for the board for the first time in four years as it goes to see Team Filipinas in action in at least two games—against Korea yesterday night and a still-to-be-determined for the second round of the eliminations on Monday.

This is also the first time that the board will hold its annual meeting outside of Macau, the gambling Mecca of Asia where the PBA team representatives meet in their last two meetings.

* * *

Despite the smog that envelopes this bustling city, Tianjin is still a sight to behold, with its architectural structures heralding the best in the world.

Aside to the 25th Fiba-Asia World Championship qualifying is being held at a flying saucer-shaped venue straight called the Tianjin Gymnasium, which can seat up to 6,456 spectators.

Scalpers ply their trade to anyone who approaches the venue four-office where ringside tickets sell for 280 yuan (around P1,4000 each and gallery seats going for 50 yuan per piece.

Que gains share of 11th in Malaysia golf with 67

PENALING, JOHR, MALAYSIA—Angelo Que escaped his wrong-numbered play with a 4-under-par 67 Saturday to salvage a tie for 11th place at the PGM Invitational Holdings Selangor Masters won by Australian Nick Bolton.

QUE

With his 69 in the third round, Que finished with a 3-under 209 total and earned $4,307. He had a 71-74 in the first two rounds at the Set Selangor Golf Club.

Jeric Pagunsan was the next best Filipino at even par 284 after closing with a 69. With his earlier rounds of 69-74-72, Pagunsan ended up $3,833.

Antonio Lascuña (74-69-75-76—294) won $4,250, Artemio Murakami (72-71-74-73—290) earned $6,746, Wen-Chong Liu (71-75-74—290) claimed $1,150 and Jay Bayron (73-72-74-70—289) settled for $600.

Bolton, winner of the Brunei Open last year, captured his second Asian Tour title thanks to a sensational course record equaling 8-under-par 63 in the final round.

The 24-year-old Bolton, who started the final day six strokes off the lead, fired eight birdies in a flawless round for an 11-under-par 273 total, edging overnight leader Thanakrit Apibhasawat of Thailand, who shot a 70, by a single stroke.

Mardi Fraser of New Zealand finished third on 276 following a fine 67 while South African's James Kamte ended the tournament with a 69 for fourth place on 277. Nick Justin of Brunei, Indonesia Rizal Mulliono and India's Gaurav Ghei shared 49th on 279.

Asian Tour Story

Ateneo-La Salle battle up today

By Jaemie W. Pays

WHAT SEEMED LIKE A POTENTIAL MISmatch early in the season might just turn into another fight-of-attendance between the country's fiercest collegiate rivals today.

Ateneo and La Salle clash for the first time in the 72nd UAAP men's basketball season with the defending champion Blue Eagles and Green Archers riding on a hot streak in their 5 p.m. battle at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ateneo coach Norman Black knows Tab Baldwin's Archers will face a La Salle squad far different from the team that started first at 0-2.

"They look good, they seem to have their energy back," said Black. "They're now making their outside shots. They started out slowly in the first couple of games, but in the last five games their score is going up."

The Eagles share a league-best 5-1 record with the Far Eastern U Tamaraws, who aim to recreate a five-game-winning roll against their own bitter foe, the University of the East Warriors, at 12 noon, also at the big dome.

Tickets for each game are sold separately.

Although small, Fiona Pamaran can relate that the Eagles are favored in the blockbuster duel, as remains confident of his Archers' chances following a 101-93 double overtime conquest of the University of Santo Tomas Tigers last week.

The thrilling victory unveiled the Archers' winning streak to four games and propelled them to a share of third place at 4-2.

"We're playing the No. 1 team, the defending champs," said Pamaran. "I hope we can continue this run. Each game is a learning process for us. We're still a work in progress right now. But I guess the players are accepting their respective roles already."

In this rematch of last year's Finals, both Black and Pamaran expect their wards to put premium on defense.

Despite the heated rivalry, Ateneo and La Salle officials are encouraging their supporters to come in yellow shirts instead of their "usual school colors" to "pay tribute and foster solidarity in the values and principles" of the late President Corazon Aquino.

League officials also said the new schedule, which includes a three-hour gap between the two games to clear the venue, is "experimental." The format aims to provide more tickets to the four schools' supporters and minimize walking.

KHAUDIM Mitoa of UST tries to shake off Martin Reyes of UP in close UAAP game yesterday. AUGUST DE LOS SANTOS

Growling Tigers tame Maroons

By Jaemie W. Pays

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS came up with a blistering run in the second half and banked on a 89-85 victory over University of the Philippines in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Dylan Ababou, Hamim Illiano and freshman guard Jerry Yang led the Tigers in shooting as 22-3 outburst that pushed the Tigers ahead at 66-61 after trailing at 46-48 early in the third period.

And the win was timed to end the fourth losing streak of the Maroons that were defeated in the final two minutes when De Marcos threatened anew at 87-85 on Rondi with a combined 47 points.

The Tigers halted a two-game skid for a fifth-best 4-3 record.

Earlier, National University held Adamson scoreless in the last five minutes to post a 75-70 triumph that snapped the Bulldogs' five-game slide.

The Bulldogs improved to 2-5. Both the Falcons and the Maroons wound up at the cellar of the first round at 1-6.

In high school action, La Salle Zobel completed a seven-game sweep of the five round by crushing Adamson, 79-58, yesterday at the FEMI Hyping Arena in San Juan.

Cedrick Lubing on also came through with an all-around performance of 16 points, four boards and five assists to power the UST Tiger Cubs to a 100-87 rout of the UE Junior Warriors.

The Cubs halted a three-game losing streak for a 4-3 record.

The scores:

First Game

UST 89—Ababou 32, Illiano 12, Yang 12, Mejia 11, Lubing 8, Cabello 5, Ilustre 5, Ramos 3, Tolentino 2, Dakila 0, Lojera 0.

Quarters: 14-19, 46-42, 62-61, 89-85

Second Game

UST 100—Alcober 23, Sing 22, Mejia 17, Garcia 8, Bautista 7, Fornea 6, Ayhon 5, Abanes 5, Mabanta 3, Tolentino 2, Tenio 1.

NP 87—Le 23, Mi. Reyes 21, Ilustre 11, Bean 9, Padilla 8, Lopez 5, Bragais 5, Gomez 2, Mariano 2, Arcenas 0, Rodriguez 0.

Quarters: 21-21, 44-41, 74-65, 100-87

Baycats, Hawks rip Naascu opponents

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-Recoletos de Cavite outplayed STI, 99-95, yesterday and moved within rare games of sweeping the eliminations of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the UM Gym.

The Baycats mastered the Olympians in last nine points in the second quarter while outlasting 20 in virtually secure their ninth straight win with a 42-22 spread at halftime.

University of Manila grabbed second place with an 8-1 card by humbling Informatics, 77-50, while AMA Computer with freshman Marcelito Pring 20 points, romanced Mapua Cardinals, 86-77.

The UM Hawks played a second straight loss on the losers who ended the season with a blistering 7-4 one before bowing to STI.

The AMA Titans improved their chances of making the next round with a 5-3 record, while the Heavens slumped to 2-3.

MBT CHAMP Meagan team owner Hilan Marcilla (holding daughter) celebrates with his players after capturing the 2nd Conference of the MBT Corporate League championship. Meagan, led by MVP winner Alvin Yong, beat Chelmer Ringo Bisbishop of James Cafe, 72-70, in the finals.

Powerade-RP needs all help

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE POWERade-RP team was to leave for Tianjin, China, to compete in the Fifa Asia Men's Championship, I made a promise to coach Yong Gadan.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Goyar

For whatever it was worth, I told Yong I would be praying fervently for what many would consider a miracle in Tianjin.

Yong thanked me. He said the Philippine team needs all the help it can get in whatever form, prayers included.

Indeed, we might need a miracle to get anywhere in Asia's biggest and most prestigious basketball competition.

Yong said his greatest worry is no longer China, once the most dreaded basketball power in Asia, but the teams from the Middle East.

"They're tall, big, fast and they can shoot," Yong said.

Most of the teams from the Gulf area are stocked by Europeans and many of them have naturalized players in their lineups.

In other words, they avail of all the privileges allowed in the Fiba rule book.

Two years ago in Tokushima, Iran beat China for the Fiba Asia Championship to earn a berth to the Beijing Olympics. It was clear proof that the Gulf teams are starting to establish basketball supremacy in Asia.

***

PSC chair Harry Angping didn't think twice when he approved a budget of P2.4 million for the amateur boxing team's 22-day training in Havana, Cuba, and its participation in the World Championship in Milan, Italy this September.

"Of the 48 NSAs, boxing has the most potential," he said.

"In fact, to address the problem of training and preparation, I am ready to host bi-monthly competitions against foreign opponents. That will give our boxers at least six competitions in one year."

***

The PBA board had a long meeting last Thursday which started at noon and ended at dusk.

At first, the impression was that the governors talked of nothing but a proposed P1-billion franchise by Ayala Corporation for the franchise of Barako Bull while it takes a leave of absence.

According to a PBA insider, while the board devoted some time to discuss the Smart-Giligas proposal, there were other matters listed in the agenda.

Like a foley procurement and an executive committee on the incoming season's PBA budget.

As to the proposal, no decision was reached by the board.

The matter will be discussed further when the board meets in Tianjin this weekend.

According to the insider, the board has asked Tommy Giligas, represented by Ross Gregorio, to submit a revised proposal.

There was also an agreement, he said, that the matter not be discussed with anyone, specifically the media.

"But one thing I can tell you, the sound of the board is crybaby."

Smart-Giligas has already been allowed by the board to play as a guest team in the all-Filipino Conference.

***

NBA Asia's Cedric Hagonoy is bringing a team with 5 NBA legends in Manila to play against PBA players past and present.

"Initially, I'm thinking of four or five PBA legends like Alvin Patrimonio, Elmer Cuidet, Ronnie Magsanoc and Benjie Paras, and mixes or eight current players," PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios said.

Last season's Mythical Five will be the core of the PBA selection, the commissioner added.

***

According to reports, tickets to the upcoming Ateneo-La Salle game are selling like diamonds.

A ringside seat is said to the black market for as high as P5,000, said a disappointed La Salle alumnus. And that's only for one game. There's a different charge for the preliminary game, he said.

2nd Bernabe Cup chess slated

THE 2ND NAYON FLORENCIO BERNABE CUP Rapid Open Chess will be held on 22 Aug. 11-18 at 11 A.M. at the UM Isaac Peral's Activity Center Hall Floor Building 8 Pureza cor. Legarda Sts. Sampaloc, Manila.

The nine-round Swiss System event, organized by the Youth and Sports Development Office in coordination with Barangay Don Bosco Chess Club, draws P50,000 to the champion. For Pureza cor. Legarda Sts. Sampaloc, Manila. For Parañaque residents, details, call 825-1503 (Salvio Manoy). Reservations call Dr. Bong Perez at 5463114, 3804886, 09 19-7257552.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

RESOLUTION NO. 2344-2009

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Supreme Court launched the Supreme Court Health and Welfare Plan (SCHWP) to help Court employees in their medical and hospitalization expenses;

WHEREAS, membership in the SCHWP was made on a voluntary basis. While majority of the Court employees willingly joined the Plan, others declined membership;

WHEREAS, some lower court employees who initially refused membership now signify their intention to become members;

WHEREAS, upon request and in the interest of the service, a second chance should be given to those who initially refused membership but who now signify their intention to become members of the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Supreme Court Health and Welfare Plan Board, RESOLVED to OPEN MEMBERSHIP to the Plan to all lower court employees who are not yet members provided that the appropriate individual Applications for Membership are filed not later than September 30, 2009. Membership will become effective on January 1, 2010 accompanied by the corresponding deduction of the monthly non-refundable contribution to the Plan in the amount of P75.00 from the monthly salaries of the new members.

31 July 2009.

(SGD.) HON. MINITA V. CHICO-NAZARIO
Chairperson

(SGD.) ATTY. MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Acting Chairperson
Office of the Clerk of Court, En Banc

(SGD.) ATTY. JOSE P. PEREZ
Member
Office of the Court Administrator

(SGD.) ATTY. MARIA CECILIA B. MARCIAL
Member
Asst. from the Office of the Chief Justice

(SGD.) ATTY. RONALDO B. REYES
Member
Office of Justice Ruben T. Reyes (Ret.)

(SGD.) DR. PRUDENCIO P. BANZON, JR.
Member
Medical and Dental Services

(SGD.) ATTY. RENE B. ONDOG
Member
SCMO

(SGD.) MS. ESTRELLA D. ELIC
Member
Rep. from Fiscal Management & Budget Office

(SGD.) MR. WILFREDO M. DESAMERO
Member
SCEA

(PSI — August 03, 2009)

Scribes pick Aquino 'NC' best player

SAN SEBASTIAN ROOKIE LENCH AQUINO is quite readily admits that Jimlee Aquino is one of the reasons why the Kings are enjoying their finest start in an NCAA tournament in more than a decade.

"He's really proving that he's the leader of the team," said Aguinio, whose squad leads the league with a pristine 7-0 slate.

Aquino, the 6-foot sweet-shooting swingman from Bacolod City, delivered another clutch performance to lift the Stags to a surprisingly easy 91-76 victory over the four-time Jose Henry Romero in the battle of unbeaten teams Monday.

Aquino, who leads the league in scoring with 21 points per outing in the first seven playing days, was honored as the NCAA player of the week for his heroics. —Gerald P. Pajaro

WINNER Maria Sharapova warms a point against Urszula Radwanska during the quarterfinals of the LA Women's Tennis Championships. Sharapova won, 6-3, 7-5. —AP

Rizal softbelles trounce Poland

Rebound from World Series loss

By Gerald P. Pajaro

RIZAL PROVINCE BOUNCED BACK WITH a 6-0 drubbing of lightweight Hong Poland, Friday in the 2009 Big League softball World Series at the Lee field in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The victory erased the Filipino softballers' record to 1-1 after they bowed to Latin America representative San Juan, Puerto, 3-18, in their initial assignment Thursday.

"This win is a great morale booster after that loss to Puerto Rico," team manager Holly Rivera said in a text message to the Inquirer.

The Filipinos actually led early against the Puerto Rican when Mailbar Francisco smashed a solo homer run to deep center in the first inning. But they got outhit, 12-8, the rest of the way.

Rizal, aiming to improve on Manila's second-place finish last year, was set to play the US Five last from Antelope Valley California last night.

The Philippines is actually fielding three other teams in different divisions of the World Series.

International Little League Association of Manila will see action in Senior League softball in Senior County, Delaware starting tomorrow, while the Junior League softball squad competes in Richland, Washington from Aug. 10 to 22, the same date as the Senior League baseball World Series, where an Elite is competing.

Kasiadi edges Bayron, 2 other Pinoys for title

INDONESIAN JIMMY KASIADI RECOVERED from a disastrous bogey-start with a two-putt birdie on the final hole for a one-over 73, topping Rufino Bayron and Mike Alejandro of ICTSI team-mate Canlaspagan's Jerome Bal-adallan by one stroke to capture the Indonesia Amateur Golf Invitational crown at the Imperial Golf Club in Indonesia late Friday.

Kasiadi bogeyed four of the first six holes at the back, enabling Bayron to draw level going to the par-5 18th.

Bayron, however, pushed his drive into the fairway and scrambled for par for a 71 while Kasiadi hit a good drive and sculled 3-wood shot from 250 yards to within eight feet, barely missing an eagle-putt bid for the one-shot victory. Kasiadi finished with a 209 total, edging Bayron who settled for 210, the same output of Alejandro, who had a 69, and Balladian (68).

Ready2Race rides on Benito feat

READY2RACE DRAW ANOTHER HEROIC performance from Roby Benito in the fifth leg of the 2009 Magnolia Pure Pilsen Karting Super Series recently at the Exchanged Kingdom Kart Track in Sta. Rosa Laguna.

After clinching his Asian Karting title, the 14-year-old Benito seized another double, bagging back the SGE Overall and SGE Junior crowns.

Benito is being augmented by Tomas Racing School, Tony Kart, OTR parts, SLC Auto Helmet, Sparco Racing, ABE Racing gloves, Oakley Euro Gear, Active Group, Hometrust Golf & Country Club, Antonio's, Asia Driveway Transport, Aspire Rent-a-Car, Kimpo Seiki Stainless Steel Corp., Bauan Doctors General Hospital and Cerdeva Resort.

Finishing third in the pre-final heat, Benito snuck close to the **rally pumps before pulling** a quick drive on Jani Berdaico on the 10th lap to secure the lead for good.

Benito took the checkered flag in 13 minutes and 52.080 seconds, 0.105 of a second ahead of Berdaico.

Teammates Joey Delotavo and Jeremy Ty (-0) scored behind Benito to claim team-race supremacy in the ROK Jr class and wind up third in the SGE overall division. Alba Tandiba, also of Ready2Race, clocked in fourth in the ROK overall class.

"We're happy that the boys are consistently delivering in every race," said Ready2Race manager Chito Benito.

READY2RACE karters (from left) Roby Benito, Joey Delotavo and John Tandiba after the Exchanged Kingdom karting races.

Anton stays unbeaten, nears Autocross crown

ANTON

BULACAN—BAGUIO City's Carlos Anton inched closer toward clinching the Philippine Automobile Federation title after notching his third straight triumph in the series at the Mapecoyan International Park.

Driving his reliable Mark Young Volkswagen Mechanic GTI, Anton posted the day's best time of 1:14.49 against DEL Racing Team rivals Mary Tan and Dave Cuan.

Tan managed second-up with a time of 1:15.34 while Cuan ended third-clocking 1:15.80.

"This one was so hard fought, we battled with David (Cuan) in the last run and I was so lucky to have come out on top," Anton said.

Earlier this month, Anton clinched his third straight Philippine Hillclimb Championship at the hillcrest of La Chelsea for his 16th career victory. The win

PROFESSOR Ross Butler

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DR. Emilio G. Perez

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle golfers edge Ateneo

LA SALLE WILL TRY TO REMEMBER TO BEAT ARCH-RIVAL ATENEO TO win the 22nd edition of the Ateneo-La Salle Golf Classic at the North and South Courses of Canlubang Golf & Country Club on July 31.

The Green Archers prevailed, 17-13, riding Class A, B, Class, Ladies and the Seniors classes. Ateneo took the Championship, 5 and 0 classes.

La Salle then presented Coach Jerbie Lim a bronze Buddha statuette adopted by Hajdas Fern-C, Pancho Rojas, Kenny Rogers, Seattle's Best, Pisanti, Patron, Italiano and Yamaha Golf Cart by Motor Cabalo Corporation.

Notre Dame teams zoom ahead

TWO TEAMS PUSH INTO THE SEMI-FINALS AS BOAT THEIR respective rivals over the past week to claim the early lead in the Mike-sponsored Small Basketeers Philippines Pawamilk Girls tournaments at the Ateneo School gym.

Notre Dame thumped Don Bosco Technical College-Mandaluyong, 62-14, in Group B of the Pawamilk division. Notre Dame's SBP rookies also clopped Ed La Salle-Cubao, 36-29.

Enchanted Kingdom hosts races today

AFTER HOSTING KARTING LAST WEEK, ENCHANTED KINGDOM WILL again be a venue for another motorsports spectacle with the 2009 Magnolia Health Tea Philippine Endurance King Championships taking the spotlight today at the Kart Trail DX in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The event is the second installment of the 2009 Enchanted Kingdom Motorsports Month which also features Slalom and Karting races.

TOP EXECUTIVE SHOOTERS Glenda Ng of Cardine Imbesi-Isi Corp. (third from left) rules the 2nd PHSA (Philippine National Shooting Association) Executive Championships at the PNSA/PSC range in Fort Bonifacio, Mayaat Powerflor Inc.'s Homobono Tio (second from right) and Filipinas Shell's Raffy Capinpin (second from left). While them are shooting president Art Macapagal (left) and PNSA vice-presidents and reigning national pistol champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009
E-mail: sr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Jaime Tenkjerie S. Melendrez

Lowe wins Gold Tambuli Award for Selecta Family Pack

Lowe, Inc. was recently conferred the Gold Tambuli Award for the "Most Effective Family-Oriented Brand Campaign," for their work on Selecta Family Pack. Given to the campaign that best strengthens and promotes the ideals of the Filipino family, Lowe's work on Selecta Family Pack - which showcased the beautiful family of Zoren Legaspi and Carlene Aguilar, together with their twins Cassie and Mavi - fashion ... other brand campaigns in most effectively promoting the values of love for children, mutual respect and sharing, while still being perfectly tied up to their product - ice cream.

Aside from winning Gold for the category Lowe's work on Selecta was also chosen as a finalist for the "Commercia Celebre Platinum Award," which is the highest distinction given in the competition. Unilever FIFM Ice Cream (Selecta) was then nominated as a finalist for "Effectiveness Advertiser of the Year."

Launched by the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP) in 2005, the biannual Tambuli Awards is the first and only award-giving body in Asia that recognizes profitable integrated marketing communications campaigns that simultaneously promote societal values.

In the photo are (from L-R): John Concepcion, CEO & Managing Director, Unilever FIFM Ice Cream, Inc.; Mark Arroyo, Executive Art Director, Lowe Incorporated; Carlos Santos, Assistant Brand Manager, Unilever FIFM Ice Cream, Inc.; Hobbie Rigada, Business Unit Director, Lowe Incorporated; Jenie Gasco, Marketing Manager, Unilever FIFM Ice Cream, Inc.; Abigail Ibarra, Associate Creative Director, Lowe Incorporated; Li Calero, Chairman, Full Circle Communications & Chairman of the Board of Trustees - UAAP; John Zeigler, President and CEO-ICCDB Asia Pacific & Japan; Hernando Villegas, Sr. VP of UAAP.

HAPPY HAUS DONUTS INTRODUCES QUALITY-AFFORDABLE DONUTS PLUS SUPREME BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Times are hard, prices continue to go up, your pasa doesn't go as far as it used to anymore. That means we have to cut down on some "unnecessary" delights. Dr does it? Happy-Haus Donuts provides high quality donuts at very affordable prices. Others usually make their products smaller or switch to lower quality ingredients, just to cut on costs to sell their product cheaper. Happy-Haus Donuts on the other hand, believes that quality, size and good taste can still be sold at an affordable price. In fact with the new WalOXY bars, Happy-Haus Donuts is selling great tasting donuts with chocolate toppings, all sorts of add-ons like marshmallows and pinipig, and stuffed with different fillings like chocolate and strawberry, for only P3.00each!!! Truly, an affordable delight for Filipinos from all walks of life.

Happy-Haus Donuts is also proud of their franchising program. Tired of being bossed around? Tired of working so that your bosses can make more profits? Well here's an affordable option for you. Work hard for your own benefit! Franchise Happy-Haus Donuts now! Happy-Haus Donuts has a no franchise fee, no royalty fee program! We only require a very small REFUNDABLE security deposit! Yes, that means in case you decide to close, we will return the security deposit you gave us. Also, you only pay for what you sell. Anything unsold or left for the day is simply returned and fresh donuts are delivered to franchisees everyday. Basically you have nothing to lose. Happy-Haus Donuts will also provide orientation and training for the franchisee and the crew, as well as opening support. And with the low investment needed, you can open as many outlets as you want. This is the perfect opportunity to be your own boss.

Times are hard, prices are going up. .. Are you just going to sit there and take it? Grab a Happy-Haus Donut now! Brighten up your day with this low priced, high quality, yummy treat. Better yet, grab a Happy-Haus Donut franchise now. Join the Happy-Haus Donuts family and help fight off unemployment and the economic downturn! You can reach Happy-Haus Donuts at 410-9084 or 376-8393. You can also email at happyhaus_roam@yahoo.com.ph.

Estimar clinches gold in wushu

BANGKOK—MARY Jane Kristine Estimar capped a glorious visit to Team Philippines' campaign by winning a gold medal in the wushu competition of the 1st Asian Martial Arts Games yesterday at the Bupa Arena Building in Sriphatthanat Sports Center.

Estimar, a silver medalist in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, downed Si Si Soe of Myanmar, 2-0, to edge the women's nanchon 52-kg event for the country's second gold after Jeff Figueroa of taekwondo.

Figueroa clinched the country's first gold medal in the men's featherweight category to block off the Filipinos' gold medal rush in the 41-nation competition.

"I tried to be more disciplined and maintain control of her attacks," said the 27-year-old Estimar, who defended well all throughout the fight and nonetheless hit points on a subtle and a sweep.

"Ito siya sa Beijing [Olympics] last year and I was over her in the finals of it. I just did what I have to do—to win it for my country."

Mark Ellow and Mariane Mariano were still competing as yesterday against Jianying Zhang and Jingjing Gao of China in the finals of the men's nanchon 65-kg category and women's nanchon 60-kg, respectively.

Estimar's win came after Dondon Arabis-Yap in the semifinals of the men's nanchon 52-kg. Dath Lemon, also pitted to a Thai in the men's lightweight finals.

MyVote.MyTurn.

HOW I WILL DECIDE

The Inquirer keeps me informed. The 2010 election is really about _____ (HOT TOPIC #1), _____ (HOT TOPIC #2).

Our next president needs to be someone capable of _____ (CHARACTER TRAIT) like _____ (POLITICAL HERO), and not capable of _____ (POLITICAL SCANDAL).

No one knows for sure what will happen. But I will make my vote happen.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
E-MAIL OR TEL. NO.:
GENDER: AGE:

Fill out. Clip. **Send** to **2010electionsms@inquirer.com.ph**. **Fax** to **897 4811**.
Or send **SMS**: Type 2010 Name/Address/Ref Topic/Character Trait/Political/Anti-Political Scandal and send to **0918 888 5588**.

INQUIRER

Monthly, our Research Department will collate the results which will be posted on the network. Entries filled with good thinking to make ideas/innovative approach/ previous/ low opinion will receive surprise prizes.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **A Leader's Way:** Recapturing momentum /B2
■ **Marrying IT** and the arts /B4

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
Sunday BIZ

FLOORBOUND. Cooking pans makes the area where the bakeo for delicious rice cakes.

Text and photos by Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—COUPLE RISES: told Dr. and Rhonda Jara literally live and breath their business 24/7.

They lay their heads on the table where they cook, get by an hour hours of sleep, brave the weather and deal with the ugly side of the business until they realize their "bibingka dream."

Less than three decades later, the couple's hard work paid off. Their RCJ Bakeas Bibingka has now become a household name hereabouts.

Customers seek out the couple's baked rice cake for its no-nonsense preparation, melt-in-the-mouth texture, long shelf life, and that unique mildly sweetish flavor.

Rhonda's Ilonggka can stay soft even after three days.

What people buy these days from the couple is Bibingka made of the ochre milled rice, sugar, milk, eggs and freshly grated young coconut cooked not in clay pots, but in an oven designed by Reginald, who, by turn, is proud of what they do for a living.

They sell a pack of eight round bibingka cakes for P20, while a bibingka the size of a paper plate sells for P80. What looks like frosting is actually a combination of egg, sugar and milk.

Reginald and Rhonda have come a long way from the northern Iloilo town of Balasan, bringing RCJ Balasan Bibingka to Jaro Diocesan Fiesta in Iloilo City.

Back to Economics 101

'Subject need not be rewritten, it only needs to be reread'

By Michelle V. Rarus

RECENT EVENTS IN THE United States, particularly those relating to the financial meltdown that has since turned into a full-blown global economic crisis, have spurred talk that perhaps the basic concepts of economics are already outdated and need to be rewritten.

But the managing director general of the Asian Development Bank does not see it that way. He believes the Bank lies in the teaching of basic economics.

"I don't think Economics 101 should be rewritten; instead, it should be reread by everybody," ADB's Rajat Nag said in a speech before leaders of the Asian business community during a forum organized by Platinum Circle held recently in Manila.

RAJAT Nag of ADB

Regulation still necessary

While financial and capital markets need to freely function, governments should have a role on their proper functioning, and regulation is still necessary, Nag said.

The failure of corporate giants in the United States was largely blamed on weak, if not the absence of, regulation on investments in derivatives—highly sophisticated financial instruments some of which have turned out to be junk.

The investments were packaged to include investments in credits in the subprime mortgage market, composed of high-risk borrowers of housing loans. When borrowers defaulted on their liabilities, investments in the supposedly triple-A rated investments were down the drain.

Echoing a similar view, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said if there was one lesson to be learned from the ongoing crisis, it would be the need for regulation. He said the region had learned the lesson well during the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

However, he also stressed that policymakers must be careful not to engage in "over-regulation."

Tetangco said takeover reaction to the crisis—implementing regulation deemed to be too tight—would curtail dynamism of the financial markets.

Tetangco does not believe that people should no longer invest in derivatives nor engage in engineering sophisticated financial products.

What is needed to avoid a similar crisis in the future is to make sure regulation is always equipped to step with the modernization of financial markets, he said.

Asia did not suffer as much from the current financial meltdown as the United States and countries of Europe.

Share the Asian financial crisis of 1997, regulation of banks and other financial institutions in Asia have significantly improved.

In the Philippines, for instance, the BSP has adopted stricter rules on capitalization and presented products in the recession of credit. The benefits of regulatory reforms are evidenced by healthy financial indicators. For instance, the average non-performing loans ratio of the country's banking sector has been brought down to about 4 percent, near the pre-Asian crisis level, after it peaked at 18 per cent.

But while the Philippines

BACK TO B1

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BEST OF BOTH WORLDS IN broadband

As dial-up becomes increasingly out of date, more Filipinos are savoring the benefits of broadband especially now that SMS or text messaging and "Pasaload" can be done on the PC or laptop – courtesy of SMART Bro.

THIS MEANS MORE STUDENTS, HOUSEWIVES AND professionals who are constantly wired to their computers need not leave the comforts of their keypads just to be able to send a text message or pass on load to a friend or relative.

With SMART Bro's latest offerings, the growing number of postpaid and prepaid subscribers now discovering the wonders of mobile Internet technology can have the best of both worlds.

"Now the Filipinos' mobile and PC lifestyle is complete because the convenience and facility that both cell phones and computers provide are available right at their fingertips," says SMART Marketing Group Head Annie P. Nanol.

She points out that this big broadband benefit is made possible by SMART's network coverage which is the most extensive in the country as well as its cutting-edge High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) wireless technology that is capable of up to 1.8 megabytes per second (mbps).

SMART Communications, Inc., the leading provider of wireless services in the Philippines, recently included the award-winning SMART Load and short messaging services to its SMART Bro offerings.

With "Pasaload" made possible in a PC or laptop, there is utmost convenience because subscribers may now reload their SMART Bro accounts at their own convenient time. By making "Pasaload" available to them, they have the freedom and flexibility of managing their SMART GSM credits (if prepaid) or SMART postpaid (Gold plan) for their broadband needs.

Using their mobile phones, subscribers just need to text their SMART Bro number <space> Pasaload amount and send to 888. With this benefit, SMART Buddy and Talk N' Text subscribers can easily transfer their load to their SMART Bro account just by texting.

SMART Gold subscribers with SMART Bro Plug It can have a hybrid prepaid SMART Bro account by easily doing "Pasaload" increments to their SMART Bro account.

Now, subscribers can load their SMART Bro Plug It anytime anywhere.

SMART Load – as it is otherwise known – was recognized with the Best Mobile Service for the Consumer Market award in 2004 by the prestigious GSM Association in Cannes, France.

Ease of load selling was the primary benefit that this service provided both consumers and retailers. It was launched to cater to subscribers who needed emergency load from relatives and friends – a special need that catered to majority of prepaid users.

SMS facility in SMART Bro, on the other hand, brings the PC chat experience to the normal texting lifestyle. With the convenience of keyboard typing and continuous messaging (SMART Bro PC clients can type 160 characters per message), subscribers may use SMART Bro to communicate with their friends and loved ones like a regular texter.

And at a standard rate of P1 per 160 characters, text-loving Filipinos cannot ask for more. That simply means being able to send short messages to mobile friends across all networks at rates that are worth every piso spent.

Now, that is giving SMART Bro subscribers the best of mobile and computer worlds in one. From the country's wireless leader.

Annie P. Nanol
SMART Marketing Group Head

Café with a mountain view

Text and photos by
Marvik Erika Chavez Loyola
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CUBAO, BARANGAY ... COOL BREEZE, swaying and rustling leaves of bamboos, dimpling birds and a relaxing view of the mountain and green trees may prevent you from sleep after having mouth-watering dishes in this café at the foot of Mt. Mayraki in Barangay Bulan Sur, 5 kilometers away from the town proper and 90 kilometers from Manila.

Rene and Elizabeth Paradigm own Café Rennen—its name culled from the couple's Christian names.

Built on a 600-square meter lot, Café Rennen's bamboo design is Rene's idea.

He is fond of native things. So he designed the cafe with plow, bamboo stems, large woods and rapir shells.

Customers are welcomed by a plow sign, which represents the hard work the couple has invested in putting up the café and send their three children to school.

The café's front view is of the national highway. As one strolls inside it and takes the stairs going down, the view of Mt. Mayraki fascinatingly unveils.

Forty-nine-year-old Rene used to be a band playing folk songs. The group included a blind singer.

But, according to Elizabeth, they had stopped setting up bands since February when repair work started on Pinagsanjuan Bridge, which connects Cuenca town to Lipa City.

She said it would be too expensive for them to fetch and bring back the band members to their homes.

She said she would just wait for August when repair of the bridge would be completed.

Rene said he and his wife used to work in a luxury ship, the Queen Elizabeth, as bartender and housekeeper, respectively.

In 1998, Queen Elizabeth ceased cruising and were back home. Shortly after, both of them decided to stop working overseas due to health problems.

The couple was not successful in their first businesses—a restaurant in San Jose town, a piggery here and a poultry farm there.

During what was left of their savings, they decided to go into the catering business in 1999.

"After all, we were both graduates of hotel and restaurant management," said Elizabeth.

They sent their three children to school using their earnings from catering. Their eldest is now working overseas as a nurse, their second is a call center agent, and a third is still studying. All are products of La Salle University in Lipa.

In March 2007, they put up the first phase of Rennen Café in front of their house, along the national highway.

The eight-bedroom mid-top would be a swine until Rene's architect cousin advised him to have it upgraded and build an extension of the café.

The café's second phase at the back of their house used to be a mushroom. In December 2007, they turned it into a functioning and relaxing place.

Construction of the café was really a hard work, said Rene.

"We used to watch how our laborers pushed and hammered big rocks from the ravine. The upgrading was done manually because there was no available equipment at the time," he added.

The couple hopes to expand the café sometime in the future. It will be renovated and renew the Laureate land Rene's parents had given him.

They also plan to extend café operations to 24 hours, and put up rooms for customers staying overnight.

"What we need is a much bigger capital to fund the construction," said Rene.

'Punch holds'

Elizabeth said their regular customers were usually local government workers from the town, such as police officers and municipal employees.

"They would say they need peace of mind, and they would find it in the place," she said.

Rene La Salle students consider the place to be their favorite hangout because they would not only eat or rant but also feel it, said Elizabeth.

Customers call two to three days before the event to make reservations.

Rennen's Café has two full-time helpers. The couple is hands-on to their business.

"My son the cook here and our son, the second child, is in charge of the gigs," she added.

Sharing catering services, they join efforts their helpers.

Rene and Elizabeth usually wake up at 8 a.m. to buy fresh fish, seafood, chicken meat, pork and beef and prepare the dishes.

As early as 7 a.m., there would already be customers.

Elizabeth said the season for catering are the months of October, January, February and August. The café has room for about 80 people.

Elizabeth said their specialties are sizzling pusit, sizzling liempo and sizzling bihg.

In the noodle category, they have Pancit Alanganin (pancit canton with lomi sauce) as the most requested.

Elizabeth said others had come to refer to it as Pancit Bahls.

THE MOUNTAIN has enchanted cafe owners Rene and Elizabeth Paradigm.

NIETVE design houses the entrance to the dining place in Cuenca, Batangas.

AS ANY CYCLIST CAN ATTEST, THE DIRECTION of a race depends largely on the terrain. The awesome challenge of pedaling up a mountainside ordinary a rider, but the thrill of running downhill requires little to no energy at all.

Wind also factors into a cyclist's journey. Driving into a howling headwind saps a cyclist's strength, while a friendly tailwind makes the ride much easier.

Momentum functions for a leader much like the wind and terrain do for a cyclist. With the advantage of momentum, financial results come effortlessly, opportunities abound, and growth happens naturally.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves living at a time where the American economic engine has stalled and momentum has shifted unfavorably in the marketplace. Spending has slowed, capital is scarce and reliance on our is hitting. Many leaders have

A bibingka dream co

YLONDA and her bibingka

rate to Iloilo City, where they have set up shop at the entrance of the Ledesma mansion beside the Jaro Cathedral by the plaza.

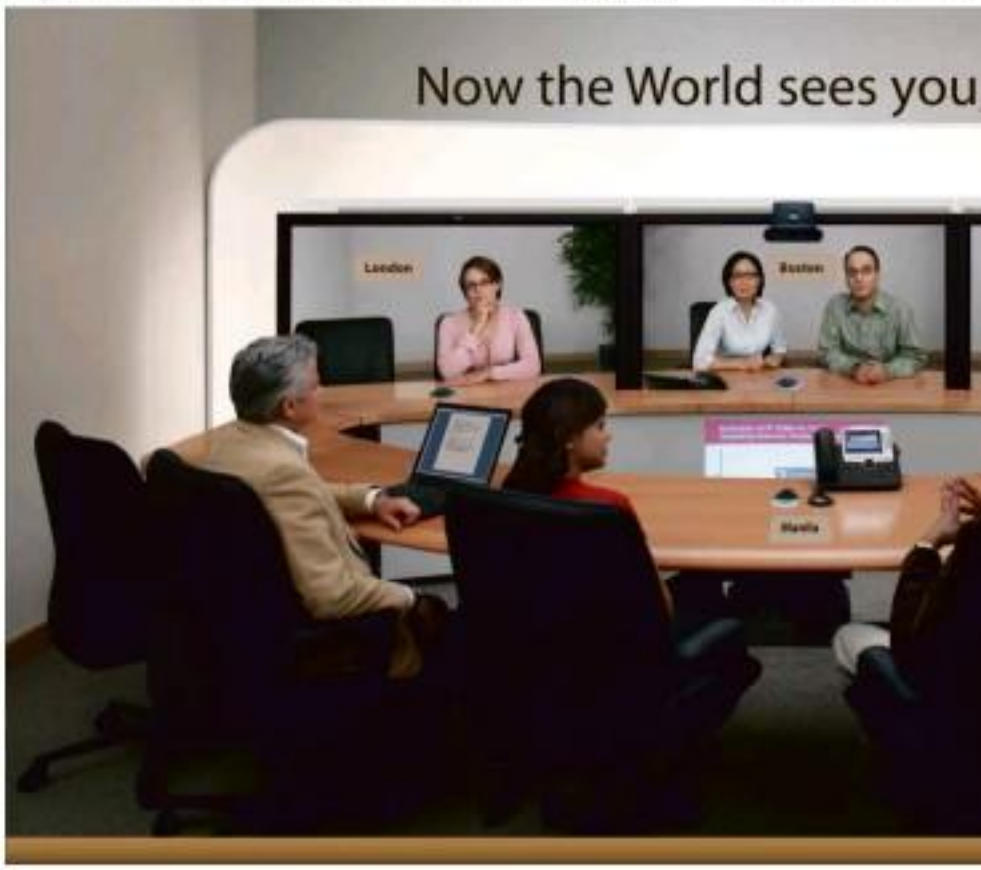
Back in the popularity of the 28-year-old BS2 Business Biingka among pasalubong-crazy Ilonggos. And the couple gets orders such pick-up time of 1 a.m. or 3 a.m.—just before customers take the next flight out to Manila or abroad.

Florenda, 56, says her flavorful bibingka as her family's cash in out of poverty.

"My ambition as a child was to finish school, but my parents didn't think it was necessary," says Florenda in their makeshift hut at the Ledesma mansion. "They had the concept that only boys should be to school and, as long as a girl knew how to read and write, that was enough."

The Ledesmas have invited the couple to stay in one of the mansion's many rooms on the ground floor. But the Jaro couple feel more comfortable in their hut, with a piece of coconut serving as makeshift roof, since this has been their way of life.

Deprived of an education and hardened by poverty, Florenda hoped that the suffering she



Recapturing momentum

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

...the mind in their favor, and find others pushing harder than ever ... Keep up with the rest of the pack. ... up uphill struggle, what can ... do to recapture momentum?

... on the seeds you sow rather ... the harvest you reap

...ners can't control the weather, but ... can control the care and attention ... which they plant and cultivate. ... Sooner or later, if they sow diligently, the 'reapers' will comply and a ... harvest will be gathered.

...maintain momentum, prioritize ... of don't get caught looking at your ... Find the intrinsic satisfactions of ... honest day's work and improve ... Choose field. Make continuous ... in your personal growth ... development. Even if results don't ... immediately, you'll position your... self for future gains.

If you're searching for a job, don't consider yourself a failure if an offer's come your way at first. Work hard to strengthen your interviewing skills, polish your resumé and network more energetically. Take pride in how you conduct yourself during the job search. By giving your best, day after day, you not only increase your odds of landing employment, but you also boost your self-esteem.

Keep hope alive

Have you ever watched a sports competition and seen the team that's behind or the scoreboard give up? Already defeated in their minds, they quit playing hard. In doing so, they give themselves no chance of rallying for victory.

When business slumps, people can sense emotions are frayed and bad news quickly escalates into panic. Overbearing worry and stress tempt people to abandon hope.

As a leader, your circumstances may be grim but your face doesn't have to be. Smile and be upbeat. Give encouragement. Look for successes to celebrate. Use your humor (not the sound of mumbling and late conversations). Above all, don't whine and complain or tolerate defeatism in the attitudes of those you lead.

People are relying on you to jumpstart momentum in your organization, and your response to adversity can set the tone for everyone on the team.

Foster unity

When you're winning, relational problems can be glossed over, but when times are tough the human/interaction people are organized. If you're trying to regroup your team, nothing extinguishes the spark of momentum like infighting.

As Abraham Lincoln said, "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

Before you can build momentum as a team, you have to iron out relationships. This means reaching through conflict until you reach a place of resolution and mutual respect.

For a leader, it also entails using communication to link story with survival. Teammates must be told, in no uncertain terms, that the future success of the organization depends upon their ability to pull together.

Summary

There are no rally caps in the business world. No magic dominoes either.

The only place momentum will begin is with the influence of leaders who are determined to move their teams forward in spite of the present challenges.

Practically, this involves the following behaviors:

- Focusing on sowing seeds instead of reaping harvests;
- Keeping hope alive; and
- Powering unity.

Clinical 'The Inspired 2', a learning event for our first, featuring PBG president Anton Lufferly, former US Secret Service Officer Marcia Harvey and former McDonald's marketing director for Asia Pacific Leila Hernandez. This will be on Aug. 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the PowerPlant Cinema. Call Inspire Leadership Consultancy at 687-2614 or 0917-8111153 to book your seats.)

...ne true

From page B1

...Reginald takes pride ...

...ment through would never happen to any of her six children.

"So much sacrifice goes into each birthday we will. I still remember working and living on Orilla Street near Subway's municipal hall for ten months with only an cover boxes for a roof. Good thing it did not rain during the time we were there," recalls Florenda.

Reginald Jr., 10, says several businessmen have approached them, trying to buy the BCJ name and offering big salaries to the couple as long as they allowed the businessmen to make some improvements and manage things for them.

But the couple turned them all down.

There was never a time, even on slow days, when the two couple did not justify their delights they said.

Not even bad weather could deter the couple from personally overseeing the preparation of their birthdays. After all, after seeing their children and grandchildren get good education, they still have one more dream left—owning their very own house and lot.

Certainly, the birthdays sales will see to that.

Back to Economics 101

From page B1

...takes pride in having kept its banking sector stable, then cites boom talk that the country simply got lucky because its banks' comfort sophistication. Most banks in the country are still investing heavily in fixed-income instruments and equities.

Ignorant

"Banks in the Philippines did not invest much in derivatives because they were either too intelligent, [having foreseen] that these instruments would fail, or too ignorant about how these actually worked. They did not want to invest in something they could not understand," one banker said.

Tetangco, however, did not believe that the Philippine banking system was largely spared from the current crisis because of its lack of sophistication. He said there was a conscious effort on the part of regulators not to allow banks to engage in highly risky investments without being armed with sufficient capital cover.

He said the BSP allows banks to invest in derivatives offshore, but only if they have enough capital to cover potential losses.

Nonetheless, Asia is not 100-percent shielded from the ill effects of the global downturn. Since the United States and Europe serve as major markets for goods produced in Asia, the Philippines and its neighbors witnessed a steep drop in their export earnings.

A 'new normal'

In the case of the Philippines, its exports fell by 34.5 percent in the first five months of the year to only $13.6 billion from $21.1 billion in the same period last year. Global demand for electronics, the Philippines' major export curtail, plunged as a result of the recession in the United States and Europe.

Given this backdrop, the ADB has encouraged Asian economies to make room among themselves and rely less on the United States and Europe for their export income. Nag said the huge level of liquidity in Asia...China alone already has $2 trillion worth of foreign currency reserves—should prompt member countries to make more among each other.

He said Asia must start seeing itself not only as a producer of goods for the West, but also as a market for the goods of each member country.

Tetangco said the same thing about the Philippines.

One way to make sure that the country will not be left behind when Asia gets its recover from the turmoil is to diversify its export markets and for the government to grant more subsidies to the export sector, he said.

"We are in an economic environment that markets and authorities have never experienced before. Pundits have said the world is moving into a 'new normal.' Therefore, if economic agents, including regulators, expect to survive the changing times, it will be business as usual for them," Tetangco said.

According to Nag, Asian countries will recover faster from the economic downturn than their counterparts in the West.

But ADB's latest estimate, Asia's growth will slow down to 3.4 percent this year from last year's 7.3 percent as a result of the turmoil. However, Asia will likely rebound next year, posting a 6-percent growth. The figures are still subject to revision.

Nag also said Asia would eventually become the world's key economic driver, with some countries seen to emerge as the top economies by 2040: China, India and Japan. He added that China would soon displace the United States as the world's largest economy.

"However, none of this is pre-ordained," Nag said, as he challenged Asian leaders to address critical economic issues now facing the region.

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Green Light for Future Meetings

Design and construction leaders at Arup road-test the world's shortest commute at PLDT's Public Studio Telepresence.

PLDT recently opened Telepresence to the public at its Makati headquarters to wide clamor and anticipation. Telepresence delivers a high definition, life-like conferencing experience through inspired audio, video and environmental qualities allowing users (users is never their colleagues, customers and business partners across a virtual table. The first guests to enjoy this privilege of using this cutting edge communications service were three directors from the global design firm, Arup. Together with partner Telin Communications, a collaborative meeting among Arup's executives from different nations took place.

Arup is one of the world's leading design, consulting and engineering firms, noted for innovative projects such as the world-famous Sydney Opera House, the Tate Modern, and the Beijing Bird's Nest and Water Cube. Some of their remarkable current projects include the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Arup is also the design firm of choice for several of London's Olympic venues.

As the light of travel road rules and restrictions in some Western countries, Arup Director for Hong Kong, Simon Chung, Arup Director for Security Consulting Australasia, flew into Manila to evaluate the PLDT Telepresence experience. The team from Arup enjoyed a six-hour Telepresence session with their counterparts in Boston and London, who were in Tata Communications' Public Rooms. Being the first public Telepresence room in Southeast Asian region, the meeting connected the directors from PLDT's Manila Telepresence Studio to their counterparts across the world.

> "The Manila team was stellar – everything functioned well once we got their screen to appear and our folks were treated like royalty. I couldn't be happier with PLDT."
>
> – Diane Olkiewski, Arup (USA)

On the maiden Telepresence experience, Arup's Diane Olkiewski (USA) commented, "The Manila team was stellar – everything functioned well once we got their screen to appear and our folks were treated like royalty. I couldn't be happier with PLDT and our local Arup contact, Sarah Plumb. They really did it together for the three directors!"

It seems fitting that a company famed in architectural and design circles for its creative use of space, attention to engineering and detail, a keen focus on its people, has chosen this innovative communication tool. PLDT Telepresence, to hold business meetings across continents.

All things considered, a six-hour Telepresence session brings about quicker decision-making and faster turnaround time, since planning and presentations can be discussed well in advance of the actual and costly experience.

"When one considers the cost of bringing top management together, a six-hour Telepresence session costs less than two-way business class airfare. Not to mention multiplied, another perk about an executive's commitment. Now, Arup executives are looking into PLDT Telepresence to have more productive and engaging meetings, and greatly reduce travel expense, time commitment, and carbon emissions. This allows the value of PLDT and Tata Communications' joint initiative in bringing global Telepresence to the Asia-Pacific region.

Stella Littlewood, Arup Human Resources Director, emphasizes the company spirit of innovation across their global offices, "The immersive nature Arup has always been to develop innovative. Innovation is only possible when there is free thinking, but this needs to be in a way that safety cues are provided which allows Arup to deliver an exciting business."

Talk about delivering an exciting business. PLDT, the company that knows innovation well, and its partners Cisco and Tata Communications, all certainly deliver on this promise. It's about time creative executives like Arup make the best use of this new technology.

As building and design experts who know how important it is to keep workforces staff connected, a virtual meeting room fosters exactly that kind of collaboration, creativity and innovative spirit. Soon, more and more companies will discover the same benefits. The new technology offered by PLDT Telepresence, the future of business communications, is still about people. After all, good meetings make better relationships.

Nothing says it better than the words of a truly satisfied client. "Based on everyone's reaction," writes Arup's Diane Olkiewski (USA), "I would say we have a unanimous green light for future meetings."

Marrying IT and the arts

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SAME DAY BUSKING "MIDDAY" begins. It was slow, but friends gave applause to put up an information technology training center—Systems Technology Institute—to address the increasing demand for IT professionals.

Now, almost 20 years later, the IT training center has evolved into the STI Education Services Group (STI ESG) and is no longer just an IT school.

In 2002, the STI Group bought into De La Salvia College to offer nursing, physical therapy and caregiver courses, as well as a degree in hotel and restaurant management.

Seven years later, STI ESG has ventured into yet another field, also loosely unrelated to IT but not lost because with the times.

The brainchild of Jaeger Tiaco, son of STI chair Rosalio Tiaco, the STI Center of Arts aims to make STI an educational institution that not only houses the technical and academic side of individuals, but also their creative side.

Reinvention, evolution

STI ESG president and chief executive Monico Jacob relates that the group's venture into the arts is part of its constant "reinvention."

"At a school, we should keep reinventing ourselves. We have to be in tune with what's required by the industry. We want to provide students with values critical for every life," Jacob says. "Our strength is IT, but we also branched out to nursing, hotel and restaurant services, because these are values the industry requires. We also have education and business management."

According to Jacob, "It's a continuing evolution."

"We have to look into a more holistic development of the individual through the arts. Basis the reason for the creation of the center. It's also a response to what the industry requires now—culinary, fashion, photography and theater arts will develop the holistic and holistically," he says.

The target demographic of the center is also part of STI's effort to upgrade the kind of education it offers.

Over the years, he relates, STI's student has gone up from the C and D income brackets to the lower B and C groups. Students who enroll at STI have scored from considering just affordability to giving more weight to the quality of education they can get at STI.

"Part of reinventing is upgrading STI. So, its affordability is no longer an issue in our students. It's now more on educational value. There's a deliberate and continuing effort to upgrade the quality of teaching at STI. Regarding our facilities to also part of our programs," he says.

Top-notch facilities

STI has recently put up a new academic Center at the Bonifacio Global City, which also houses the school's Center of Arts.

At the heart of the Center of Arts is a state-of-the-art photography studio that both aficionados and professionals can use and enjoy.

"We want to make our photography (offering) the center for photography in Manila. You can use our studios to shoot their clients or their works. It's one form of outreaching. When they use our studios, they won't have to spend as much to set up their own studios," Jacob relates.

For a 24-hour slate, divided into several sessions, Tiaco says, an office can expect to shell out an average of P6,800.07 200. These rates can go up depending on the specialization, say, human form, or some other specific photography genre.

Apart from the state-of-the-art photography facilities, members have a chance to work with some of the best in the industry, including Jim Paredes, Sandy Rieck and Eddie Boy Escudero, he says.

"Part of our marketing strategy is partnering with industry practitioners and people experts in their fields," he relates.

Transports partnership

The Center of Arts also offers classes in various performing arts, including voice, theater, musical instruments, and dance genres such as ballet, hip-hop and modern jazz. These classes are conducted in partnership with Transports, Asia's first professional gospel theater group.

Home to some of the industry's best talents, including Isabel Gamosa, Cecile Ocena, Cherubim Pendatun, Jhun Concepcion, Monita Francisco, Wenchie Leachon-Yoke and The Company's Sweet Plantado, Transports is expected to help place the Center of Arts on the performances arts map.

"We hope our partnership with Transports can become an inspiration to our students. We're now talking about rolling out theater to other (STI) schools," Jacob says. "Transports is in charge of bringing people in for vocal, piano and guitar, while we have studios that can be used for the classes. We even have a recording studio."

Voice, theater and dance classes will set potential enrollees back by P1,500 for a 12-session course.

Positioning

The Center of Arts is also offering culinary arts courses for P98,000 for four months under some of the country's best chefs, as well as fashion courses under renowned designer Renee Salud and other industry stalwarts.

"Our positioning is not to compete with other schools that are into the arts. We're also not saying that we're an arts school. We'd just like to encourage students to come and be thrilled by the arts. We also want to offer true services and facilities to aficionados of the arts and to professionals," Jacob says.

"What we're hoping to do is to roll this out in various other schools across the country. It's going to be done eventually on. We'll have an assessment at the end of the school year, but we do plan to introduce it to other company-owned and franchised schools," he adds.

At this point, Tiaco says the Center of Arts is still on the awareness-building stage, considering that STI is new in the arts scene.

"Before we can roll out to other stores, we have to build awareness of the Center. We want to get the attention of people to our new avenues," he says.

Jacob says STI is looking at offering arts classes, except photography, in Tarlac, Tagaytay de Oro, Davao, Baguio and Naga.

"We invented a lot to the Center to allow the pros to go there and use our facilities. We also want to inspire students to do the things they want to do. We're giving it all to the students...so they don't have to go for corporate arts-related courses," Tiaco says.

THE INVITATION for you to explore new facets to your talents in new ways.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ The man Cory Aquino left behind /A1
■ When Auggie met Cory /D6

Sunday LIFESTYLE

greenology
Ayala Malls' earth-friendly philosophy

Long before green was in fashion, Ayala Malls was in on it.

DENNIS Hidden, Marlet Prieto, Manik and Kaz Jimenez, Marilyn and Tony Fenix

RAPTZO and Kapamilya friends Cory Vidanes, Vilma Santos, Ai-ai delas Alas and Wilma Galvante

SEA PRINCESS, James and Kim Yap

We are all Cory's children

YELLOW IS THE NEW BLACK. For a nation in mourning, yellow has become the color of unity, promise and peace.

I'm sure we will all remember Tita Cory's funeral as we were all united in creating a bit of history. Whether you joined the queue to the rites on the yellow-marked roads, or just watched the 43-hr networks' non-stop live stream from your part of the globe, we were all brought together to honor this amazing woman, Cory Aquino.

I was in Cebu, unable to attend the funeral, as I had committed to attend the tapping-off ceremony for the new Hotel Elizabeth. Luckily, my friends Marlet Prieto, the Dalthard Dennis and I were able to attend the first evening Mass at La Salle for our beloved former president, and I was able to conclude with Kris and her family.

CAFE KEORAL visitors Bette Nadal and Pearl Pascual

HILLET Belmonte and Pinky Aquino-Kieffer

ENTERPRISING Pinay in Manila Carmelene

CDNY supporters Elmer and Vivienne Grey with sons Rafa and Joaquin

ECO TOTE designers Randy Ortiz, Michi Cabico Santos, Vic Borbon, Patricia Ramos-Diaz and Louie Claparols

ECO ART artists Alma Quinto, Bal Arreglado, Ayala Museum director Marilou Ortigas, Ayala Museum marketing manager Wanda Davila and Eco Art artist Pete Jimenez

We were all brought together to honor the amazing woman

TESSA!
Irene Prieto-Valdez

Eric and I have been friends for more than a decade, a friendship forged in late-night visits to Barbara. I have seen her through the ups and downs, and the unwavering support of her mother even when the latter was not fully in favor of her relationships. I was glad to see how well Eric handled herself at the funeral.

Although I was in Cebu, it was impossible not to feel part of the throng. The TV coverage was exhaustive and facebook was a social revelation. There were so many uploaded photos and videos, all for the appreciation of individuals who wanted to share their sentiment with Cory.

I was hooked reading the updates and looking at photos, videos and graphics contributed by so many. A young pinoy artist, Steve Mittal, posted his rendering of P500 bill, with Cory beside Ninoy Aquino. Check out www.peacelovesandrevolution.com for more images.

Magie Ramos of Swatch, a longtime friend of Tita Cory, told me of their incredible, once-in-a-lifetime mission to sing 1,986 songs, surrounded by multitudes chanting "Cory! Cory! Cory!" It's amazing how one person can unite a divided nation into a country of proud Filipinos.

More than the funeral is over. Goldie Scanlon, daughter of Penny Tenpenny, and I will resume our baking sessions with our fourth Pacific Dailycover. Life has to go on, which brings another value to my mixed-genes, the color of life.

We are all working hard to create a greener world. Ayala Malls, for instance, has come up with Greenology. Maurice Adamson, Ayala Malls SVP, explains that this is not about the rarity of the color, but about showcasing earth-friendly source that help save the environment.

Pro-environment designers

Eco Tote is one project. Fashion designers Louie Claparols, Michi Cabico Santos, Vic Borbon, Patricia Ramos-Diaz, Ann Escarrie and Randy Ortiz from the Filipino Zone in Greenhill 3 were commissioned to create a reusable bag for each Ayala Mall. The bags are sold at P400, and Ayala Malls contributes P100 of this to World Wildlife Fund.

The designers also partnered with different organizations in support of their environmental campaign. Claparols adopted the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), an organization that develops awareness and compassion for animals in the country, while Cabico Santos engaged Earth Day Network, an environmental campaign pushing proper waste management.

Meanwhile, Borbon tapped Gift and Kinzon Fair Trade Foundation, an organization that provides product development and market access to micro-entrepreneurships, and Ramos-Diaz supported fashion Fashionhero's Gift of Trees project under the Road to 2020 movement, aiming to restore one million hectares of rainforest with native tree species by 2020.

Not to be left out, Farsons supported Gaea in Laguna, home of the dentition and dying elderly by providing them basic necessities such as food, bedding and toiletries. Dexie participated with the filmmakers of Mendoza City, tapping the top secondary exhibition known all over the world for their superior craftsmanship.

Eco Dash

Another great way to spring Mother Earth is the Eco Dash. It is now open to all patrons of Ayala Malls, runners and non-runners alike, on September 13, starting 5 a.m. at Ateneo High School. In partnership with Rocksy Kalikasan, Globe and Ayala Land, Ayala Malls' Eco Dash is inviting runners to race against time to save the earth. Runners may choose from among five distances: 3K, 10K or even a harrowing 21K half-marathon.

Continuing on with their eco theme, Ayala Malls also has Eco Art. Renowned artists Alma Quinto, Pete Jimenez, Mae Valdeavo and Bal Arreglado display their edgy art pieces all over the malls, from Glorietta 1 and 2 to Ecotech 2 and 3. I guess it's all meant to make you feel green while exercising your credit cards. But truly, Ayala Malls does a great job being eco-friendly and eco-chic, educating the young about ecological issues and environment in ours.

Green is truly the color of the new day. I can just picture the undulating fairways of the Tagaytay Highlands golf course, and bounce parks. Developed by Bello Corporation over 15 years ago, Highlands continues to enthrall with its new projects, the latest of which is Cotswold.

Cotswold, named after a beautiful area of rolling hillsides sometimes referred to as the "Heart of England," is Bello's way of promoting a leisurely family lifestyle. Just like its English namesake, Bello's Cotswold is all about natural beauty and calm surroundings.

At the Cotswold launch at Balsam, which was supported by Chris Sports, Mike and Nikki of and Kung, I learned that each Cotswold property comes with a proprietary share of the Tagaytay Highlands Golf Club, the couple's premiere 18-hole course. Even better, Tagaytay Highlands members have access to the world-class amenities at the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club.

Colors can really represent our dreams, hopes and desires. Yellow and green can both be so positive. What other colors can be in our future?

E-mail the author at stephenson@inquirer.com.ph

PRESIDENT Aquino with Rep. Teddyboy Locsin

"HOUSE Lite" host Kim Gonzales with vintage Cory pin

PRESIDENT Aquino's nephew Jason Lacson

BISHOP Soc Villegas and President Corazon C. Aquino

GLORIA Diaz, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Anna Solimpenia, Virgie Ramos and former President Aquino

CELEB Trapeze Xarnes with the honor guards: Private 1st Class Antonio Cadiente, Police Officer 1 Danilo Maldo Jr., Petty Officer 3 Edgardo Rodriguez and Airman 2nd Class Gean Logarinos

PASSING Lucena Park en route to Manila Memorial

AERIAL photo of fiesta entrance

ECO TOTE designer Michi Cabico Santos, Ayala Malls group senior division manager Vivian Jose, Ayala Malls group vice president and CSR Rowena Tarrosa-Lee and Eco Jorge

GREENOLOGY advocates Eric Pelayo, Mandy Santos, Ayala Land Inc. senior vice president and Ayala Malls group head Marivic Altamarro, Greenology advocates Nina Huang, Leica Carpo and Raya Macaraig

JENLI Land Inc. senior vice president and Ayala Malls group head Marivic Altamarro and Greenology advocate Nina Huang

GREENING advocates Yvonne Rodriguez-Regan and Chec Rodriguez-Bayrit at Greenology event

AT THE Hotel Elizabeth tapping-off ceremony: Jon, Jean, Jet and Ruth Fernando

Approval of Virgin of the Poor apparitions marks 60th year

DEVOTEES OF VIRGIN OF THE POOR in Baliuag, Bulacan, are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the approval of the Virgin of the Poor apparitions on Aug. 22. Alba Inc. is the religious diocese who wrote a book about the spread of the devotion in the Philippines, told one of the latest event.

On Aug. 22, 1949, then Malolos Bishop Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Rickards, bishop of Lingayen, officially recognized the authenticity of the eight apparitions of the Virgin of the Poor to Mariette Beco from Jan. 13 to March 2, 1933, at Barrio(s) North Bunsuran, Baliuag. This has been affirmed by Pope John Paul II with his personal visit to Baliuag on May 21, 1985.

Healing spring

The Blessed Mother identified herself as the Virgin of the Poor. She led Mariette to a spring, sprinkled her with its water, asked her a chapel, faith, and love of prayer. In return, she promised to relieve the sick from their suffering. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the official recognition by the Church, Msgr. Aloysius Jenkins, current bishop of Lingo, will preside in the Eucharistic celebrations at the Church of the Virgin of the Poor in Bunsuran on Aug. 22, feast of Mary's Queenship. Blessing of the sick will be held at 3 p.m.

In the Philippines, a visit is suggested as the country's host replica of her shrine at the Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Km 40, Biga, Silang, Cavite, which also houses the Fr. of Bunsuran House and Museum, named after Servant of God Msgr. Aloysius Schwartz, founder of the Sisters of Mary. To go there, please contact Sr. Teresa Sumalde, SM, at 5389321; fax (046)413-6057; e-mail fmcc_silay@mozcom.ph.

Virgin of the Poor in Tagaig

"Pandayo ng Ina ng mga Dukha" in Pil Transcoria, Pilot-ers Bitanes, Tagaig Cel. 8243417), is the only parish in the country dedicated to Our Lady of Bunsuran. For visitors, please contact Lenel Cralla, 62 30th Ave., Cubao, QC (tel. 9128228).

The book "Virgin of the Poor: A Tribune From Her Filipino Children" is available at National book Store.

Healing in Lourdes

Fr. Mario Bijo, SSS, will bring pilgrims to the miraculous spring in Lourdes on Oct. 22. He is chaplain of the Bethesda Healing Center in Quezon City. Although no officially recorded, many miracles of healing have taken place in Lourdes. When I was brought by Emily Maldizon to Lourdes for the first time in July 1997, I returned myself in awe and asked the Virgin that I be spared of illnesses, especially coronary diseases. She answered my prayers. For more info on the trip, please call Sonia at 7722737 or text 0920-9456860.

Taking care of St. Philomena

Today takes the procession of St. Philomena at 2 p.m. goes around the Holy Redeemer Parish in Mandaluyong, Quezon City, the parish group of Living Rosary Association in the parish will take care of it. Since 2006, Monster Rockets, 24, has been part of the preparation for the celebration of St. Philomena's feast day on Aug. 11. It is a pennie he made as a way of thanking the saint for saving him in an accident years back.

Vincent was getting off a bus on the highway when the bus moved ahead without waiting for Vincent to go down. He told me he landed on his feet without getting hurt. Vincent credited this miracle to St. Philomena. He friends in the group

IMAGE of the Poor

San Lorenzo Ruiz to Macau

The San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Ministry, through the sponsorship of local benefactors, is bringing a statue of San Lorenzo Ruiz to the Diocese of Macau on Aug. 14. Welcoming him at the airport will be Cardinal Jaime Ludo and Cabinet Fel de Jesus. Blessing and Mass will take place Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m., at St. Augustine Church. The Dance Guru will perform with the choir and will also sing at St. Sebastian Church for another Mass. There are 11,357 OFWs and 2,750 residents Filipinos in Macau.

Fr. Pedro Balde and Fr. Alex Bridio are in charge of the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Dalaw Soledad

The Cofradía de Nuestra Señora de Soledad headed by Ryan Enriquez will bring the pilgrim icon of the Virgin to St. Therese of the Child Parish in Fellowship Homes, Montero Highway, Antipolo City, on Aug. 13-22. Medals joined in Fr. Neil Tarlac. This is part of the 25th anniversary of the recovery of the icon stolen in 1984 from San Roque Church in Cavite City.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Duranty

The Virgin appeared to Mariette Beco in 1933

Makiling artists pay tribute to Tita King Kasilag

THE MONTH-LONG TRIBUTE TO National Artist for Music Dr. Lucrecia "Tita King" Kasilag continues in Concert at the Park today, starting 5:30 p.m.

The concert features student-performers of the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling, Laguna. Minette Padilla is program host. Venezia Ilha will perform an audition in Manila. Admission to the concert is free of charge.

Kenny's marathon

Kenny's Open 2009 Orlando Farrell (at-field duo), 10.7 p.m., at Northside Global City in The Fort. Register on or before Aug. 11. Nike Manila will perform after the event, which will benefit funds On Manila and 67.11.Mileminist.

Bartending, wine appreciation

The Abaya Kitchen offers wine, pasta and fondue classes on Aug. 25. Know the basics of Bartending and Wine during class is wine connoisseur and founder Yves Pannenmaker gives a 4x4 demonstration 11:30-5:30 p.m.

Whip up pasta dishes with Classic Pasta recipes, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Pinoy Fondue class is set 1:30-5:30p.m.

For schedule of other classes and certificate courses, log on to www.thenayakitchen.com or e-mail contact@thenayakitchen.com. Visit Maya Kitchen Culinary Center every Tuesday to Saturday at 835 Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City (tel. 8925014 local 139).

Renaissance buffet

Renaissance Makati City Hotel's MSM presents Tuscany cuisine at its daily lunch and dinner buffets until Aug. 23 (tel. 8160888).

Raffle of trips

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, Inter-Continental Manila holds a grand raffle of trips to dream destinations. Every P4,000 in outright receipt at any of its restaurants and outlets the Diner to one raffle ticket. Prizes include Princess Cruises trip for two to Alaska or the Caribbean or Mediterranean Riviera and round-trip ticket to any KLM Royal Dutch Airlines European destination from Manila. The raffle ends April 15, 2010 (tel. 7931000).

Sun promo

With Sun Cellular's international MMS service, pay only P1/SMMS. Multimedia messages can be sent to over 200 countries including Hong Kong, Australia, United Kingdom, Brunei, China Malaysia, Taiwan and the Middle East.

To send and receive Sun MMS, make sure that Sun's GPRS service in your mobile handset is activated (text ACTIVATE and send to 2300) and the MMS settings are configured (text SETTING and send to 2300). After this, you can immediately start sending your international MMS using the international format "+" for 00 + country code + mobile number. This service is available in all Sun postpaid and prepaid subscribers.

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

AusAID Scholarships for Carnegie Mellon University.

Commencing January 2010 in Adelaide, Australia.

The Commonwealth Government of Australia provides funding for a number AusAID Scholarships to eligible applicants for the following Masters level programs at this campus:

- Master of Science in Public Policy and Management (MSPPM)
- Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT)

Scholarship recipients will gain knowledge and skills that they can apply to the development of their home country upon completion of their study. Scholarships include full tuition, return economy airfares, a contribution to living expenses and basic medical insurance.

Applications for the January 2010 intake are now open. Information about the scholarships and degree programs can be found on the website fatma.unsw.edu.au or by contacting msadmit-australia@andrew.cmu.edu

Carnegie Mellon

NATIONAL U INAUGURATES NEW BUILDING

National University recently celebrated its 108th Foundation Day with the inauguration of its new Eight Storey Building, a milestone in the school's long history in providing academic excellence for many Filipinos. The event also coincided with its Alumni Homecoming and the 365 Days Countdown for the 110th Founding Anniversary in 2010.

NU Founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. led in the unveiling of the marker for the new building. National U officials Chairman Emeritus Pacita Aboitiz Domingo, Chairman Hans Sy, President and CEO Teodoro J. Locsin, Alumni Foundation President Governor Rafael F. Ramos, as well as Manila Bishop Bernardino Cortez joined him.

National U also held its Alumni Homecoming during the same evening, making the event really a historic occasion. National U Alumni Foundation, Inc. President Governor Rafael F. Ramos led the celebration, which had the theme Balik Tanaw ... Taloy, Fuloy Nationalian. Former President Fidel V. Ramos, himself was an alumnus from the College of Engineering of National U, graced this special occasion.

The new building, which started construction in October 2006 and was completed on June 1, 2009, has a very classic campaign and a total area of 13,756 square meters. It houses the College of Hotel and Restaurant Management, Computer Studies, and Nursing, in addition to other courses offered by the University.

It includes 48 fully air-conditioned classrooms (10 in each floor), kitchen laboratories, facilities for studies in nursing skills, a lab-environment hospital, computer rooms, plus student facilities like a cafeteria, a multi-purpose student area, and wi-fi zones.

The new building highlights the commitment of the SM Group, which acquired the majority ownership of National University in August 2008, to give its all-out support in strengthening the university as an institution with over its fresh actors, equipment, and focus on academic excellence.

Don Mariano Fernando Jhocson founded National University on August 1, 1900 as Colegio Filipino. It was the first private, non-sectarian school in the country. Five years later, in response to the need for business subjects, Commerce and Accounting courses were added, bringing a change in the name of the school as Colegio Mercantil.

In 1913, English replaced Spanish as the medium of instruction and in accordance with Public Instruction Act 1450, Colegio Mercantil became one of the first private schools incorporated and authorized to award diplomas to its graduates.

Intensely nationalistic and conscious of the country's need to train more leaders towards self-government, Don Mariano Fernando Jhocson in collaboration with the Lasallian Brothers established the Philippine Law School in 1918. This later became the College of Law.

The Board of Trustees renamed Colegio Mercantil National Academy and on August 1, 1918, the College of Liberal Arts was organized to blaze the trail beyond the professional school. In line with this, the College of Education and College of Commerce were established in 1921, Pharmacy and Dentistry in 1922, Engineering in 1925, and the Normal School in 1930.

On January 17, 1931, the Department of Public Instruction approved the change from National Academy to National University with Honorable Camilo Osias as its first president.

The National University remained closed during the Japanese occupation and reopened in early 1945. Its facilities have since continuously been expanded. The school of Graduate Studies was organized in the early 1950s, and the School of Architecture and Arts was made a college in 1957.

National University is a founding member of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and is a pioneer of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), its international affiliations and memberships include the Association of Southeast Asia Higher Institutions of Learning (ASAIHL), and the International Associations of Universities (IAU).

National University is located at 551 MF Jhocson St., Sampaloc, Manila. For inquiries, please contact 743-7811 / 742-4242 or visit http://www.national-u.edu.ph.

SM Founder and Chairman Mr. Henry Sy, Sr. led the unveiling of the marker for the new 8-storey main building of National University during its inauguration on August 1, 2009, which coincided with the 109th Foundation Day of the university. Also shown in the photo are (L-R): SM Prime Holdings Inc. President Mr. Hans Sy; DMCI President and CEO Mr. Isidro Consunji, NU Chairman Emeritus Pacita Aboitiz Domingo, NU&MU President Gov. Rafael Ramos and Manila Bishop Bernardino Cortez.

(L-R) National University President and CEO Mr. Teodoro Locsin, SM Prime Holdings Inc. EVP for Marketing Ms. Elizabeth Sy, Quezon Governor and President of NU Alumni Foundation Inc. Mr. Rafael Ramos and SM Prime Holdings President Mr. Jeffrey Ng. Ramos is during National University inauguration of its new Main Building and 109th Foundation Day.

Baby Company's Baby Gift Registry Surprise

BABY COMPANY recently treated expectant moms to weekends of games, discounts, and baby care talks during the Be Its by Gift Registry Surprise road show. The event had five stops at The Block at SM City North-EDSA from July 17 to 19, The Atrium at SM Megamall from July 24 to 26, and the Commerce at SM Makati from July 31 to August 2.

During each of the events, guests were given a glimpse of the joys of parenting and caring for baby, as well as great finds at Baby Company with the help of its Baby Gift Registry service.

Celebrity mom Christine Reyes-Bukas hosted the SM City North-Edsa and Megamall events, while television personality and new princess Tessa Prieto-Valdes hosted the event at SM Makati. Celebrity moms Chesca Garcia, Dimples Romana and Nancy Castiglione joined them in sharing their experiences on the challenges and joys of motherhood.

The event also featured symposiums where experts shared baby care tips: Sophia Cleofe-Ligo, a resident professor at the Philippine School of Interior Design, shared advice on nursery decorating and safety tips. Dr. Corry Acuncella discussed the basics of breastfeeding, while Dr. Myla de la Cruz of Health Dynamics Pediatricians shared expert advice on how to give baby a proper and safe bath.

Moms had fun with musical performances by the #1 Black band, as well as exciting activities like the Goldilocks Cake Decorating Contest. There were also lots of prizes and freebies from top baby brands.

Guests received a Baby Company Gift Voucher, which entitles them to a 10 percent discount on Baby Company products and a free gift with purchase.

Visit Baby Company's website at www.babycompany.com.ph. Also become a fan of our Facebook page for alerts on the latest Baby Company promos and event schedules.

CELEBRITY moms Chesca Garcia, Christine Reyes-Bukas and Dimples Romana.

CHESCA Garcia, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Nancy Castiglione at the Baby Gift Registry Surprise event in SM Makati.

JASMINE Obrakanova won the Goldilocks Cake Decorating Contest in SM Megamall.

THE lovely nursery on top of Baby Company's Baby Gift Registry Surprise at The Block, SM City North-Edsa.

PHILIPPINE School of Interior Design professor Sophie Cleofe-Ligo shared expert advice on designing nursery rooms.

CREATE a delicate pink nursery for your baby girl. Add accents of brown or green, classic furnishings, pretty wall decor and beddings.

DR. CORRY Acuncella discussed the basics of breastfeeding.

CHILDCARE expert Dr. Myla dela Cruz gave tips on how to give baby a proper and safe bath.

What's in store at Baby Company

BABY COMPANY ALSO SHOWCASED ITS IN-STORE SELECTIONS during the recent Baby Gift Registry Surprise events, giving guests a glimpse of the exciting range of baby products available in its outlets.

These included baby essentials from some of the world's most trusted baby brands. These included mix-and-match feeding accessories from Avent Baby; Bob, Farlin, Pigeon, Rubadi, Chicco Feeding, and Baby Looney Tunes; plus nursing aids for moms from Philips Avent and Playtex.

Bathing and personal care items from Johnson & Johnson, beddings and other furnishings from Bella Bella and Disney, and playpens and carriers from Safety First and Steel Carrier were also featured. Guests also had a great time looking over the cute and comfortable clothes from Cotton, as well as fun learning tools from Chicco Toys.

Listed as nursery basics or gifts for baby, these are available at Baby Company outlets at all SM Department Stores, SM Hypermarkets and at its specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, and The Annex at SM City North-Edsa.

CHICCO Toys makes learning fun for your little one.

FEEDING essentials from Avent Baby.

BOTTLES, nursing bras, pacifiers and other feeding essentials from Farlin.

All about the Baby Gift Registry

A BABY'S BIRTH IS ALWAYS A HAPPY EVENT. GIVING PARENTS – AND their extended friends and family – reasons to celebrate. Preparing for baby's birth also entails a lot of planning – furnishing the nursery, stocking up on feeding and bathing items, as well as other baby essentials. And then, there are other occasions like christenings and baby birthdays to celebrate.

Baby Company, the Baby Specialist, helps moms and moms-to-be with their baby needs with its Baby Gift Registry. Simply by just registering, moms are assisted by our well-trained in-store staff in making a checklist as well as a Wish List for baby showers, christenings, and 1st Bdays. That way they will get exactly what they want for baby, and their friends and relatives get a 10 percent discount when they purchase from the Wish List.

Make your Wish List for baby essentials at the Baby Gift Registry counters located at the Baby Company section of the SM Department Stores in Makati, SM City North-Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, and the SM Mall of Asia; as well as specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, and The Annex at SM City North-Edsa.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Kate Moss wears Bea Valdes on UK Vogue cover /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

The man Cory Aquino left behind

From page E1

In that historic moment, the national prying eye wasn't so much on his legislative work (which is nothing or unseen or, by the way, his drastic loss of weight was a result cause of the lengthy budget deliberations months ago than his mother's illness, as he cultivated an (actual) or political accomplishment, as on his bachelorhood—at 49 years old.

"So you know, it wasn't for want of trying (to find a life partner)," he told us last year. "Does fate not favor an easy family reunion with my father's donation... Somebody [I will marry] has to be someone who can understand all the things I'm getting myself into. When you're looking for a partner, she must be somebody who can join me in all these things. I can't have a normal relationship."

Indeed, many women seemed to have given up trying to marry into this political, and now national dynasty. However, despite his turn-date as the shot, Aquino is never jaded about marriage. But it's no exaggeration to say that he's ashamed his love life—indeed his personal life—is the first and cause his mother and family have embraced.

However, he remains idealistic about marriage.

"The perfect union was my parents. They were together even as they were apart," he told us once.

He's seen seeing a young, very pretty woman after her away from the public eye. A close family friend said Mrs. Aquino had met the 29-year-old woman and even approved of her. She was with the Aquino family through their ordeal and was among the inconspicuous red crowd at the wake and funeral.

No other life

Noynoy never seemed to mind that he's lived in the shadow of his great parents and near-continuous living up to their legacy. In fact, he's known no other life, and he proved it.

By now his mother's way in every way. Before and after the 1986 Edsa Revolution and into his mother's presidency, he devoted his years, day after day—the prime of his bachelorhood—trying to protect his mother and the rest of the family, a task that left a sad short of obsession after the many coup attempts. "I can't have a good night's sleep until I know my

THE EDITORS

The gift of transcendence

THE DEATH OF former President Corazon Aquino should be remembered for one more thing, apart from many others: it was a coverage that saw the near-confluence of various media and, more important, when civil networks shared some material and caught the urge—like trying to suppress a burp—to proclaim itself the winner, or as the "official partner of the Aquino family." Alright, that tug—bad taste, no matter how you look at it—rumbled out of the mouths of some reporters only so, but good thing it wasn't repeated over and over like beeping, one could tune down irregularities.

Indeed, Cory and what she spiritualized inside every Filipino transcend his partisanship.

Why aren't they resigning?

Roger delusions or sense of propriety, it's a mere semantics.

But why aren't Ocampo, Madrigal, Nieves and Yñiguez (Labrador resigning from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts over the National Artist Awards scandal? After all, they failed to defend the selection by the NCCA with the Cultural Center of the Philippines of composer Ramon Santos as National Artist for Music.

Santos was dropped by Malacañang from the list of those elected by the NCCA and the CCP [painters Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, the late

THE GUFF BOARD

The man Cory Aquino left behind

Front page D1

mother is safe, or even long [illegible] to hear it. Angry is home]," he told us then, at that time he had only one nephew.

This obsession with security could only intensify after he, with his security detail, was ambushed before midnight during the 1989 coup attempt. His bodyguard died and he was heavily wounded. (Another suspicious event lodged in his body). If you asked him—often he loved to read, he'd say, apart from the business section of the dailies, books on the military and military strategy. He was into guns and target shooting.

When his family's security is sensational, he's what every man of the house should be—protective. One of his sons of that time, he revealed later, a security detail after she went on national television TV talking about her relationship crisis; he just wanted bodyguards to be around her during her turmoil.

Passing on the torch

The vision and the values he has, he can't say often enough, he got from his parents. "I feel I'm continuing what they did and not so novel to do different," he once told us. "I believe in what they fought and it's my role to carry and pass on the torch to the next generation. But don't you sometimes hope that will cause [others] shows to need to pass on that torch anymore because everything is all right?"

He's had no career other than politics. As a young Ateneo graduate he was small sales supervisor and youth promotions assistant to Nike. When his father became Senator, he couldn't and didn't politicize features as he watched, in Senate, in the three terms of his uncle, Amado Ortiz, as days his mother didn't need him.

But as early as that, a wise choice when his heart and interest lay not in the corporate world or business but in politics—politics as a shaper governance, not as it buys one hidden wealth.

"It really feels different when you make a difference in people's lives," he'd tell us about his work for his Tarlac constituents in Congress after he first won.

Affinity

While he's internalized his parents' legacy, his affinity to his mother was and is extraordinarily strong and special. His decisions and stands—in politics and, presumably, in his personal life—have been shaped by his mother.

This was why to all the rigmarole of Cory Magsaysay stood by her side, even literally—initially expressed her, but in time, to fight his own fights.

In his personality, it's been said by friends that, except for a few cases, his taste in women leans closely to what his mom was—simple, conservative, low-key.

That only should it be a woman you can bring home to mother, in the case of this President's son, it should also be a woman who wouldn't give his mother a bad image or cause her embarrassment. When his mom was President, it was as if he had this "reverence" at the back of his mind when he dated.

His conservatism came in women (then, at least) not in how girls dressed. We'd tell him that in case he hadn't noticed, girls now wore sleeveless tops. Days ago, during our fashion show of his cousin Diana Cojuangco at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, he chided Diana, modeling a lip wear—"Sweetheart in romance, but to tube-top?" Enough of fashion.)

Same values

Beyond the periphery is the looks for his mother's same values in women—integrity, spirituality, generosity, courage. (Yes, same virtues his youngest sister Ballsy highlights.)

Asked why he's been linked often to women in media, he told us, "It's that's my milieu, I interact with them often. Why how many congresswomen and governors are there in the country?"

When his mother was President, he thought he could be married 'way before he finally tied it.

"Imagine, by the time your kid sister, Ed, you'd be 50 na," he said then. Then deadline, even if he wasn't a serious deadliner, is long past.

He says that the pressures talk about his bachelorhood "will make me a perpetual bachelor" as it always drives home the unique challenges his family has always been thrust in to—and marry into) this girls.

He told us how Jiggy once bidded him, "Mareng pa ba ito si 'no?" If only to rub in how long and how many generations it's been taking him to find a life partner.

"But I think it [marriage] will be part of God's plan, I'm thinking. God knows what's to come for me," he said, reminding like his mother. "If I had children then, would I have been as focused and committed strong (in the country's fight), I thought.

Interesting times

"People usually say may you live in interesting times. How about, for a change, may you live in peaceful times. Hindi pa pero kami siguro as interesting times," he told us late [illegible] his family's destiny.

Last Sunday morning, upon waking up, he walked around aimlessly in their home in Times Street. "I thought, we need to be five buildings, in the house, hignorot, ten na lang. Tinitignan ko yung room ng Mommy, locked up pala. But no long," he said, recalling his memories alone in the house and how he was spared from having to see his mother's room.

While the door to his mother's room is closed, many other doors are opening for the man Cory Aquino left behind.

'Somebody [I will marry] has to be someone who can withstand all the things I'm getting myself into'

MOTHER and only son pose before the portrait of Ninoy Aquino in his cover shoot for Mayon Society in 2007 by rap photographer Wig Tjendana.

Angelo Rondello
CLASSICAL PIANO CONCERT on August 9

The Center for Positive Persons (CPP), a private school for the less privileged in the municipalities of San Mateo, Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) and Pasig City or Metro Manila will be presenting the Angelo Rondello Classical Piano Concert. This concert will be held at the Philamlife Auditorium along United Nations Avenue in Manila on August 9, Sunday, at 7 in the evening.

Mr. Rondello is a classical piano virtuoso who has been presented in concerts in various parts of the U.S. He also teaches piano to young students. Mr. Rondello will be accompanied by the UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Vienna-based Filipino conductor Mr. Arnel Casela.

The Learning for Living Foundation, a foundation for young children of economically disadvantaged families in Mandaluyong will be the concert's major beneficiary.

Following are the ticket outlets for the event: Supplies by Bonjour 1 CCD Mendiola Plaza, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila - Telephone number 856-477-8800; and at Roundtrip Travel and Tour, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City. Telephone number 913-1100.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

COMMON MOVIE OPENING

answer on page C3

TYSMANS progress from the shoot in this collection inspired by Tomorrowland.

The gift of transcendence

Pretenage D2

Ghostwriter Manuel Conde, and the late Tagalog writer Lazaro Francisco). Not only did President Macapagal-Arroyo dump Santos, she also named Sucr who did not pass the NCCA-CCP selection as National Artists. Abueva, who is GMA's presidential adviser for arts and culture; "manager" Ghostwriter and formula novelist Carlo Caparas; fashion designer Pitoy Moreno and architect Francisco Mañosa.

Abueva was proclaimed National Artist for Theater by President Macapagal-Arroyo even if she is executive director of the NCCA and thus, disqualified from the selection process by the NCCA and the CCP which are empowered by law to "confer" the awards (the President merely "confirms"). Despite being an NCCA official, Abueva didn't defend the selection process before the President, who should be all ears to the views she is adviser to culture and the arts.

Labrador, the NCCA chair, has been rewarded in by a member of the "honors committee" that was supposed to have screened the NCCA-CCP list.

And if Labrador is to the shadowy honors committee ("Are the members honorable?" asked a roaring NCCA commissioner and theater artist Ildefonso Ingles before the NCCA board headed by Labrador and mainly composed of Malacañang appointees), why didn't she defend Santos and the NCCA-CCP selection process?

Not only had they not defended Santos and the NCCA-CCP selection, Labrador and Abueva later also betrayed their preference for Caparas, who got the distinction of being allowed the use of the NCCA premises for a press conference last Friday to defend his qualifications as National Artist.

That they had failed to defend the official—and legal—selection process should compel Abueva and Labrador, either out of a sense of delicadeza or professional decorum, to resign from the NCCA.

GMA exposed by her own adviser

In defending her selection as National Artist despite being disqualified from the official selection process since she is NCCA executive director, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez said it was the President's prerogative to name National Artists. "If you're asking if I deserve to be National Artist, you should ask the President. It is Malacañang that proclaimed me!"

But as presidential adviser for culture and the arts, and as Cabinet member subject a portfolio, she should defend or shield the President from, and not expose her to, criticisms and attacks.

Filipinos in Rome gather for Cory

The Filipino community in Rome, consisting of migrants, priests and religious men and women, gathered last Aug. 2 at the Basilica San Paolo fuori le mura for a memorial Mass for former President Cory Aquino.

This was reported by Fr. Regino T. Ramos of the Religious of the Good Shepherd.

Fr. Regino is media affairs head and the highest ranking Filipino of the worldwide religious community of more whose headquarters is at Casa Generalizia, Borgo del Sacro Cuore, Via Ballarin Sardella in Rome.

"There were many people who came," reported Fr. Regino. The main celebrant was Fr. Tony Perrin SVD, the Filipino superior general of the Society of the Divine Word, the sixth biggest religious congregation in men in the world. The homilist was Filipino Jesuit Fr. Danny Huang SJ, general councilor of the Jesuits in Rome.

"After the homily, we watched a five-minute video on the highlights of Tita Cory's life," Fr. Regino said.

"Sto. Padre(ran) is where we have the Filipino chaplaincy for migrant workers [Roman Filipino]," she said. The Church is one of the key Filipino centers in Rome, where Filipinos are reportedly cared by the bishops for their fidelity to the faith and their consistent support for Church causes and events.

SEN. JAMBY Madrigal's bracelet, giveaway

Taken to task for a trinket

Facebook user Mayya Hernando read, and so are majority of those who've read her post. The object of their ire? Sen. Jamby Madrigal, who, according to Hernando, is a strongly worded demonstration (accompanied by a photo of the bracelet, left, as proof), used the open door farewell of the late former President Cory Aquino to engage in some politicking.

Hernando and her mother, like thousands of others, were waiting for the funeral cortege to pass by when they decided to buy a yellow umbrella from a vendor. They were also given a bracelet, the vendor sweetly explaining, "Eto o, bayad para sa inyo." When mother and daughter looked closely, they beheld a small picture of Sen. Madrigal dangling from the yellow plastic trinket.

Oscpd

Perhaps the 24-hour coverage was too much for many an editor. Bulgar?

Shockingnews! No excuse, certainly, but how to explain the flurry of mishaps in reporting, writing or saying "Aseroja" instead of "Aquino" in the coverage of the former president's wake and funeral?

Harumpho: Inkies News had this howler: "Wearing a white blazer suit, President Arroyo went straight to view the coffin of former President Aquino..."

A few more instances are coming to light on the internet, collected assiduously by sundry bloggers and obsessives.

GEORGE Javier

As the blogger The Professional Heckler put it, "Under the Arroyo administration, several journalists were killed. The last few days, it was the journalists' turn to kill Mrs. Arroyo."

Dyords' 'truy'

Comedian/performer/satirist Dyords Javier has a poignant one-on-on in his one-man show every Thursday night at Teatrino, Greenhills. To pay tribute to former President Cory Aquino last Thursday night, he sang the Lea Cabrera/Renato Cayetano composition "Ming Troy" and dedicated it to the great woman; whose death he considers a grieve. The wait certainly deviated from the run of gags and taunts, with special performance by soloist John Lozada. He had a real funny number on Imee Marcos-Manotoc (guess whom?). He's on every Thursday evening this August.

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NGGANGAMAS from Bataan

BABY Pichel, Susan Reyes, Lucio Aquino and Betz Aquino

JUDY Ann Santos-Reyes and son Pio

They all came for Cory

BLESS Gutierrez and Miriam Quiambao

WHAT NO ONE THOUGHT was still possible, given the fragmentation of the times, happened without bidding at the Cory wake. In a striking show of unity and collective bemusement, everybody and anybody, in the metropolis seemed to be, first to Greenhills, then at the Manila Cathedral, to pay their respects to the woman who had once united the country with her yellow revolution. For five days at least, the magic was back.

LE SOUFFLE'S Jessie Sison keeps a respectful distance from the guests at the Manila memorial.

GIL ENDRINA

PAMELIE and Philip Juico

MP CYNTHIA Villar and Rep. Maria Laarni Cayetano

BERT and Sylvia Lina

EDAMIT and Bali Domingues

BOY BALE and Rosario and his wife

BADDIES Peking Huang and Mandy Meneses

PEACHY Yamson

JESUS Pandeaming and family

FORMER JUS Rep. Stephen Solarz with Rara Alfajora and lawyer Eric Dizon

VIRGIE Ramos

ERMITTO Legaspina, Makati Mayor Jejo Binay and ex-Councilor Jun-Jun Binay with lawyer Leonardo Egalon-Reyna

LAWYER Teodoro Montero, Ching Ben Balan and Tina Marisela Duenas

BRITISH ambassador to the Philippines Peter Beckingham

How the clan pulled together for 'Auntie Cory'

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Cabadbaran

YOUR STORY IS EVERY FAMILY'S story," Kris Aquino said at the eulogy for her mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

How true. What family has not had its moments of joy and sadness? What family has not had its share of loss? How many families have been visited by serious illnesses, recent in particular?

I spoke to Aquino's nephew, Noynoy Lopa (the family spokesperson in those critical days), the day after the funeral. He shared how the family pulled together to share tasks before his auntie Cory passed away.

"Viel was in charge of living the schedules, drills, who would stay in the hospital. She coordinated with doctors. Bok and Pinky took turns staying with their mom, and Kris did not leave their room at all in the last 12 days until Auntie Cory passed away in the early morning of August 1."

Bailey, he says, is the anchor of the family. "She is the present owner of the word. Everyone really looks up to her," he says of the former President's eldest daughter.

In June, Bapa got a glimpse of the former President's feminine side when she spoke to him in her Mahal office while an IV drip was being administered to her (she had not eaten then for many days). "She told me that at critical as long, she really did not want any more treatment but she was doing it for the children. I've lived a full life, I'm ready to go," she had told him that silver noon.

On the second day of her lying in state, Bapa visited her at Makati Medical Center. It was the day after his birthday. "There she was on her bed and the first thing she told me, 'Sorry hindi na ako to greet sa birthday mo.' She was truly selfless, always putting others ahead of herself," he recalls.

"Definitely to just a subset. I'd like to think that the real legacy that Auntie Cory leaves us with is that we need to all live a life centered on God. And when you choose to do that, much suffering is imposed because you go against the grain, you go against what is normally done in the real world."

When the end was coming, and she was suffering so much, Bapa says it became "easier" to let her go. "You are awesome you love it so much pero, you have no choice. And because you love that person very much, you don't want that person to suffer anymore."

Gorgeous task

Bailey inspected Bapa to take charge of the wake and funeral arrangements. Bapa then created committees to help pull off the gargantuan task. Early on, Brigerian Lutgarde already called him to offer La Salle Greenhills as venue "for the memorability of her passing."

"In the time of her death, and having given due consideration and thought to other possible options, La Salle was really the best place to hold the wake at that time, then to move her to the Manila Cathedral the Monday after that weekend."

One of Noynoy's assistants in the Senate, Rico Perez, was in charge of security arrangements, who in turn were consulted with PNP Gen. Roberto Rosales for what the public lines on view was the intention and posterity concerned arrival and departure honorary given by the military.

"The different branches of service really wanted to honor her, and so knowing that Auntie Cory loved the military as well, despite the sweet coup attempts, we thought it would be very fitting for them to play a huge role in the services."

The food committee was ably handled by his wife, Dink, and her sisters, Ann Lopa and Pinky Lopa. "It was like the multiplication of loaves story from the Bible. Food just kept coming and we were so grateful for the outpouring of support."

And like a typical Filipino family, it was the Cojuangco and Aquino grandchildren who took charge of giving food to guests.

MP management was handled by Margie Juico, then President Aquino's social secretary, and her husband, Pogoy Media relations was headed by Maricris Bautista-Asis who, Bapa says, did a fantastic job in managing all the networks, seeing to it that the constant live feed was given. ABS-CBN, the obvious media partner, helped not only in media coverage but also in crowd control.

"She will be missed terribly," Bapa says. The loss, he says, has brought the family more to the cousins, even those together.

"Nagpa is really our mentor," he says succinctly. "When you think about it, it's really a low-key-to-many-levels—Uncle Ninoy's love for country, which was then carried on by Auntie Cory, love for God and their love for each other. Even in death, they chose to leave this world in the same month. Auntie Cory's passing reminds us of what we may have forgotten as individuals, as a nation. That we all have it in us, to sacrifice, if we choose to do so. I guess, it is your duty as people, to carry on that love story and to live out their ideals. In doing so, their deaths would not have been in vain."

Arrangements of Nonoy Aquino's murder, she insisted, 'Do it Ninoy,' will be staged at Meralco Theater on Aug. 14 -16 and 21. "The Last Journey of Ninoy" will be promoted at Power Plant cinemas, 7 p.m., tel 860-5368/860-2340.

E-mail the author at cathy.babao@gmail.com.

When Auggie met Cory

By Margo C. Enriquez
Correspondent

THE LATE PRESIDENT CORAZON Aquino's fashion was a triumph of substance over style. Her values and beliefs were subtly conveyed by what she wore or refused to wear.

Aquino began as a vulnerable heroine, who wore a yellow, baggy dress with pin tucks and pleats during her media-making, 1986 campaign against Ferdinand Marcos. Leading off across a triumphs and winning world admiration, she chose to polished clothing, played up by the attention to workmanship and small details.

Her collaboration with designer Auggie Cordero transformed her in fabulous—into the finals. She fashioned pastel-drawn look suited her simple and practical sense—and seven grabbed attention from her politics.

Before Cory, Cordero said he only refe- rences to woman leaders and their wardrobes were the late Indian Prime Ministry Indira Gandhi and her suits, Pakistani president Be- nazir Bhutto's elaborate harems (basic and drawstring trousers) and Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Aquinesque power suits. Consequently, he would create the womanish, executive look and the au- ti-said costume in the presidential wardrobe.

Cordero's boxes and camelia-clean unconven- tional late tailored suits and the delicate hand- embroidered, Mistia Clara-inspired jabs to- mark were manifestations of feminine feminizing theories of macho Philippine poli- tics.

Although Aquino was never interested in clothes, it was ironic that her rise to power in- flamed Philippine fashion. Talkies revved as campaign color to mobilize against the Mar- cos' regime. Even the color of one's nail pol- ish became a political statement.

Imelda Sr., founder and president of Ever Bilena, described how partisans drove the color of its nail polish. Before the '86 snap elections, Ever Bilena pioneered in featuring the campaign colors—Cory yellow, Manuel red and blue, Eva Estrella-Calderon's purple and Salvador Laurel's green.

"We knew Cory would win the elections. Yellow was selling very fast. Marcos' colors were a lie 10 percent," he recalled.

When the world hailed the Philippines for its peaceful revolution, national pride was expressed in Aquino's dresses that were heavily adorned with medium-stitched yello- dy Ocadiz Bilgera embroidery and cutwork).

Since the colors was synonymous to a nonviolent protest, the press often nicknamed as Ever public image.

Contemplating a designer for her political transition called on her single-minded.

Breaking barriers

On the second inauguration of an office-mate, a certain Victoria Elisa Aquino visited Cordero's atelier. She said she wanted a simple suits, a sensational outfit and an evening gown for a US trip. The designer had no idea who she was.

When she returned for her fitting, Vel, as she was called, asked if he could design her mother's wardrobe for the same trip. He fi- nally learned that his unassuming client, who confessed to be a schoolgirl, was Pres- ident Aquino's second daughter. Her First Daughter. She was part of Aquino's en- tourage in the first presidential state visit in 1986.

Initially, Cordero was intimidated by Aquino's position. But in the meeting at Ar- legia Aquino didn't live in Malacañang but in Ariegal), Tarlac's were broken when the chief executive and commander in chief of the Armed Forces approached the coffee herself and served it to him, as if she were still a homemaker.

She favored bright colors but when Cordero showed wool numbers in midnight blue and charcoal gray for his suits. But she meticulously planned her orders. However, the initial fittings were postponed after the widow- agency provincial visits after a calamity. She ended up wearing clothes improvised by friends.

Cordero's traveling wardrobe finally de- buted in her state visit to Tokyo in October 1986.

Fromtightly Aquino, or her daughters Elisha Elena or "Bubbs," as he has up to orders as they were considered personal friends. The clients were always paid under Joel Co- jangco-Ayala Sons Inc., the holding company of the clan's sugar plantation and other busi- nesses in Tarlac.

Once, Cordero forgot to send his billing statement when he sent her suits. Aquino chided him by saying that she never wore clothes that were unpaid for. When he spent of the price, he got the check in 30 minutes.

As a client, Aquino knew what she wanted. Like Thatcher, she was fussy about the fit of the shoulders and armholes and was con- tainer of her hips. She favored effects-length sleeves and preferred comfort to style and flamboyance.

Cordero moved her away from baggy cli- le camisa with his required rips and subtle em- phasized her shoulders to show her feature- s.

The Chanel-inspired piping on her suits and embroidery were adapted by clothing manufacturers and become bestsellers on the racks.

Contrary to the notion that Aquino reject- ed the color because it was associated with Imelda Marcos, Cordero explained that the butterfly sleeves would only overpower her narrow shoulders. Besides, her trademark helmet hairdo was considerable for the style.

Instead, he modernized the Imelda Clutz by remaking it in gamuza trapped by delicate passaline (chenille) or metallic blonde in her favorite pifia.

In sentimental occasions, Cory took to black, blue and red although fuchsia and pink flattered her fair skin. She never wore purple, if at all, a symbol of royalty.

The Cordero stylist worked on her clothes. Since she had no time for fittings, Aquino had three dress forms so that her clothes would be fitted on standard-sizes. The designer would then watch the evening news to check if he got it right.

State of calamity

Even when the country was in a state of calamity, Cordero made sure the president was well-turned-out. As Aquino braved the floods, dark clocks were the order of the day. "If duty got wet, it wouldn't be noticed," he said.

In the 1987 military coup, Aquino went on on TV in an emerald green blouse adorned with 18-kt-and-white interlaced embroidery. Cordero was appalled because the blouse accessories only sort the wrong sig- nals of a distressed leader.

"What were those useless on your chest?" he reprimanded. Aquino explained that she just grabbed the first thing she saw in her closet. He recommended designing cory-red black, short-sleeved tailored blouses, subtly- embroidered with diamond buttons. This look would bring the focus to her face and what she had to say.

Hence, in the December 1989 patrols, Aquino wore those executive tops that mir- rored her command of the situation without killing her femininity.

From home-and-cottage scene she went to the US Congress to 7th or reviewing troops. Aquino managed non-colorful prints. Occa- sions, the blouse were given by friends. To show her appreciation, she'd have them made immediately, even if Cordero disliked the material.

Later in her years, Aquino favored vivid PJO-get-me-not silk polyester fabrics, pur- chased in a Tarlac market. As a compromise, Cordero toned these down with tailored, coordinates in complementary shades.

Occasionally, Cordero would push the line. So, for a state visit to Brunei, Cory wore a ra- ophistically beaded lace tunic, a costume to her daughter Nonoi/Ballsie. Ballsie Bulkish was impressed so that he ordered two gowns from Cordero to be given his return, and said the designer should present a fashion show in Protocol.

Aquino's best fashion moment was her state visit to Paris, where she enthralled the French with her fluency in their language. Cordero insisted she wear jewelry to comple- ment the embroidered yello clothes.

"France will not forgive you if you're not fashionable," he had warned Aquino, known for her understatement, gave in and decked herself with heirloom jewelry.

In the 1992 presidential campaign, Cordero designed a dyed-but-merlina gown, adorned with intricate embroidery and rosettes. In rumpled-mess was a fitting thanks to his non- celebrated moral leadership and graciou- ness. She exchanged the Malacañang hous- ries for the Tarlac Crowne, a gift from her children, which brought her to the Luneta Cathedral for the presidential inaugural of Fidel Ramos, then to Times Street where the flood to restaurant in Cubao Cory.

Friendship

Cordero will always value the entertaining that went beyond designer-client. He ad- mired her tender and years of prosperity. When he designed her wining gowns, Aquino would complain if the ceremony was late, commenting that it was inconsiderate to the guests who were punished. She never lost her temper in public and always walked gently.

She lost her personal touch. Every Christ- mas, she prepared pants and joint which she gifted to special souls.

When Cordero invited her to her fashion show at Manila Hotel, she asked, "Is it impor- tant to you?" Aquino obliged and he didn't have to go through the presidential protocol. Until the last minute, he wasn't sure if she could make it, considering her hectic schedule.

After all the sensitive maneuvers on the day of the show, his VIP guest finally arrived. In contrast still, she presented him a bouquet of flowers—neatly tightly since she was allergic to flores.

Aquino continued to patronize Cordero until her later years, when she stayed under the radar.

During her final moments, the viral TV interview failed to straight an interview with him. While other people would have bragged about their association with figures, Cordero kept mum. He felt it was inappropriate to talk or she fought for her life.

"Why grind an interview? I was praying for her. That was enough."

He pointed out that media images didn't do justice to Cory. In person, he said, Aquino exuded a magnetic aura of purity and kind- ness that made her seem larger than life.

To fashion watchers, Aquino was a puz- zler. For a woman who was alien to style, she gave us a different insight into the meaning of politics and how it and tied through fash- ion. And Auggie Cordero was there to help and guide her make that fashion statement.

A WOMAN IN COMMAND, YET STILL FEMININE—this was the look for new President Aquino achieved with her designer Auggie Cordero, in these stolen scenes in historic moments: she bows from above, Chanel-inspired tailored dignitaries as she sat before the presidential seal; with Justice J.B.L. Reyes; understudied stylized Mao to Chairs in the inaugural of President Fidel Ramos in a framed photograph she gave Cordero; sporting the signature Cordero accent bow; walking the Malacañang grounds with PHIVolcanl Chito Salvaquinia and Public Works Secretary Pinq de Jesus; as a Cordero maid suit, with US President George Bush in Washington in 1989.

"In 1989 Cordero made me wear the last Philippine dynasty—the first painting in a ceremonial gown done in 1953."

In her presidency, her values and beliefs were subtly conveyed by what she wore or refused to wear

CORDERO'S dressmakers Celia Olquiano, Nenita Serrano, Elena Robledo and Ely Pasco will survive longer President Cory's thought fabrics.

At THIS CORDERO fitting room, the late president stood on the platform for her fitting.

She can't help being in love with a married man

DEAR EMILY,

I met a guy in a seminar who works in our sister company. We became friends in that one day and to cut a long story short, we became close and started dating.

At the outset he confessed to me that he is married, with two children. I was in shock, but he also confessed he doesn't love his wife and everything that happened to them was an accident.

He said she was the best friend of the woman he was courting, but they became intimate at a party. The next thing he knew, she was already pregnant. He married her because he didn't want the child to grow up without a father.

I've fallen in love with him though he is 13 years older than I. I know it's wrong but I feel very happy with him. We're in a relationship now and I know it's wrong but I love him.

Last week, I broke up with him but he didn't want to accept it. It's been only seven months yet I feel as if I've known him for years.

Is it right to continue this? Or must I simply let go?

Agnes

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Manuel

He first child may have been an "accident"—the result of an intoxicated moment, but what's his excuse for the second one? That his wife just a year to six back?

By said he married her because he didn't want the child to grow up without a father, right? What if he gets you pregnant? Will he then leave his wife for you?

What is it about winning signs like "Go Kez Emez," Hanks Off" or "Wet Jukkies" that is terribly submitter to human nature?

It's not good to walk away from. The novelty, the excitement, the "do not do it" aspect is like a drug that's keeping you wanting for more. Like you—admitting this affair is wrong, yet you're still asking yourself if you should continue.

You are standing on shifting sands. And lovers—like the passion you have for the guy—wood off.

Couldn't you be in the same position for with us—unmarried or an "accident" after the best intentions?

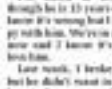
Whatever you decide, watch your back and gear up for any eventuality. Just remember—to quote a person—"chaos never contracts."

Send your email to emanuel@inquirer.com.ph

Jollibee's story of innovation continues to unfold

Over the years, Jollibee has become well-known for introducing products that capture the hearts—and satisfy the palates—of Filipinos everywhere. Indeed, one of the many secrets to its continued success is its ability to capture the taste of the times and translate it into trend-setting culinary offerings. A quick glance at its numerous milestones in offering great-tasting products easily proves this point.

1978
Yumburger
Considered as the pioneering product of Jollibee, the Yumburger has become an instant classic, made with 100% pure beef patty in a soft bun. Now served with Jollibee's own special dressing, the Yumburger continues to carry that distinct and unrivalled langhap-sarap taste that Pinoys love.

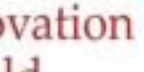


1979
Jollibee Spaghetti
Famous for its mahusay and masarap spaghetti sauce appealing to the Filipino taste which has become its signature attribute, Jollibee Spaghetti is a perennial favorite among chows. With chunky slices of ham and sausages, generous amounts of ground beef, abundant cheese toppings and premium quality noodles, you'll wonder no more why it is truly the Spaghetti best.

1980
Chickenjoy
Perfectly seasoned, Chickenjoy has gone on to become the nation's all-time favorite and best-selling chicken – crispy on the outside and tender and juicy inside. Pinoys from all ages just couldn't get enough of its crispylicious, juicylicious, sinos-delicious and gravylicious goodness – making it easily the best-selling item in the Jollibee menu.

1982
Pritchon Fiesta
Mirroring Jollibee's commitment to introduce more Filipino classics to its menu, Jollibee's version of this favorite Pinoy dish features premium Inihaw noodles served with mouth-watering palabok sauce and toppings of sautéed pork, chicharon bits, shrimps and egg. Having an instant fiesta with your family and friends becomes a breeze.

1984
Champ
A loyal favorite among those with hearty appetites, the Champ is famous for its 1/3 lb. hamburger patty made with 100% pure beef that's garnished with the freshest vegetables and a creamy slice of cheese served in a soft sesame bun. Jollibee's premium burger hits the spot especially for those craving for something filling and satisfying to the very last bite. With the Champ, you can truly enjoy big burger goodness like no other!



1985
Peach Mango Pie
This unique and delicious dessert introduced by Jollibee became a welcome treat for those craving for a sweet fix. A blend of diced peaches and mangoes in a thick sauce inside a flaky, slightly sweet crust, this product is one of Jollibee's first dessert pies and remains a very popular item even today.

1990
Burger Steak
Jollibee introduced a new way of enjoying burgers via the Burger Steak that is paired with a Filipino meal staple – steamed rice. It became an instant hit especially with its 100% pure beef burger patties topped with flavorful mushroom gravy. A simple creation food which is a hit among people – both young and old.

With its unbeatable track record in coming up with hit products like these—each one attuned to the Filipino taste—Jollibee has carried on with its tradition of offering only the best tasting, affordable and quality meals to all its loyal customers.

This 2009, brace yourselves as you will soon discover the hottest new creation yet from the same makers of these blockbuster products. Coming soon in all Jollibee stores across the nation.

2009 BLOGGER'S AWARD
HOPE Lorelei asked Dado was given the 2009 Blogger's award by Goldilocks for her winning piece which tells about her two-year-old son. She received a laptop from Goldilocks marketing director Philip Tan (left). Awarding the prize is actor Dingdong Dantes and commercial model Judah Paolo. The awarding ceremony was held at Polly Booked in High Street, Taguig City.

Australian master to hold healing sessions

AUSTRALIAN HOLISTIC teacher Andrew Zappia will be in Manila to hold workshops on Reconi therapy and acupressure. Founded by the late healer Stan Brown, the technique consists of a series of very gentle manipulations made by rolling the thumbs or fingers joints muscles, tendons or ligaments in a specific sequence. Called Reconi Moves, they loosen the tissue, initiating a relaxation of the muscle, that leads to the release in alignment of the body. They relieve many persistent and stimulate the tissue to send messages that stimulate the body's natural healing mechanisms. Reconi is recommended for headaches, migraines, aches and pains, low back pain, tension, stress, allergies, fatigue, dizziness, etc.

Beginner's workshop will run Aug. 14-19. The advanced training will run Aug 16-21. Enquiries will run Aug 16-21. Enquiries will confirm bookings and venues after the classes. The venue will be at the Philippine Naval Golf Club, Fr. Bonifacio in Taguig, near Tenda. Cel. 0919-4556746, 0929-and stimulate the tissue to 7032717.)

Guess Jollibee's hottest new creation and win an iPod Touch

Jollibee's innovation streak hits a high note with its hottest new creation which the Filipino public will get to taste very soon. Tell us what you think (or hope!) this new product will be for a chance to win an iPod Touch and Jollibee gift certificates!

Simply visit www.jollibee.com.ph from August 9 to 11, 2009 and fill out the entry form and submit your guess. All entries with the correct answer will be included in the electronic raffle on August 14, 2009.

One lucky winner will receive an iPod Touch while ten consolation prize winners will each get Jollibee Gift Certificates worth P1000.

What do you think Jollibee's hottest, new creation will be? Log on now and don't miss out on the chance to win these delicious prizes only from Jollibee!

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Macau still surprises /E4

Kate Moss wears Bea Valdes on UK Vogue cover

UK VOGUE: SEPTEMBER ISSUE... (UNSEEN) Bea Valdes. The September issue is the magic of the magazine's profitability and importance. It's the big advertising month. It is so important that every luxurious fashion bible, Vogue magazine, has allowed a documentary on its "September Issue," starring (for one and only time) Wintour.

Just the other day, the international bag and accessories designer Bea Valdes sent me an MMS about a milestone in her career. Her accessory landed on the cover of the September issue of British Vogue, with supermodel Kate Moss wearing it. Press!

How did this all happen? Mega, Bea's sister and business partner, (www.beavaldes.com) recalled: "I was considering a customized sample request for British Vogue, which had requested several of our pieces for simultaneous shoots in NY and London. Although it was hectic trying to make sure the samples were received on time, we were thrilled when the magazine informed us that Lucinda Chambers loved the pieces and had used them for her shoot with Mario Testino.

"About two weeks later, while still storing the samples in different shoots, we were thrilled to find out that 4-5 necklaces were part of the editorial feature of the September Issue, the most important issue of the year.

"About a week after that, we were told, quite surprisingly that one of our necklaces was included in the cover shoot. But we did not know which one. After a few weeks of waiting, we were told our Zelda necklace was used on front. I was on a road back asking who would be on the cover and they told me: Kate Moss.

"This cover is probably the best way to say thank you. Thank you to everyone who has helped us along the way."

Thank you, President Cory

For the last five days, we've been gripped by the life and death of a former president.

I am sure everyone feels the loss and sadness, but also the inspiration and example of self-awareness, humility and service Tita Cory has left behind.

I remember meeting President Cory once when I did a shoot of her at the Ninoy Aquino Museum in Tarlac. We photographed her before Ninoy's portrait, as well as with his blood-stained shirt. I remember her words as she looked at the shirt: "The stains are still so red."

My heart skipped a beat when she said that. I was thinking: So many years have passed and yet justice has not been served, and it still affects her.

Her life was more than amazing. From a simple housewife, mother and widow, she rose to become president and icon of democracy.

So what happens next? Who will lead us next? The answer doesn't lie in the present administration or in the coming elections but in us Filipinos. It's been 23 years since Edsa. It's time to be more vigilant, to believe in each other, to pray for one another and for our country. We need to tell the youth what happened in Edsa and for us who witnessed it, to never forget it.

Thank you, President Cory for giving us hope and light, and showing us what it means to be a true Filipino.

TNT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Andrew San Diego

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THE MALAYSIAN Formula One Grand Prix

Enthralled in Malaysia

Text and photos by Anon A. Jackson

FROM THE SCINTILLATING sparkle of Formula One engines in Kuala Lumpur to the sparkle of thrill seekers in Genting Highlands; from the dizzying Umbi-inspired architecture of Putrajaya to the manic simplicity of Penang, and all the way to the outdoor adventure in Kota Kinabalu – Malaysia invites us to say so because one of Asia's top destinations.

The ultimate experience in speed is both a sight to witness and an awe-inspiring encounter with shark machines. As one has to wear asbestos, or, on the beach, earplugs are a must if one intends to go home with ears undamaged.

Drawing nearly two million visitors and earning some $300 million revenues, the annual F1 Petronas Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit is still one of Malaysia's most celebrated events, says Zulkifly MD Said, Tourism Malaysia director for research and industry development.

"Malaysians have a love affair with fast cars and speed, so the city of Kuala Lumpur gets a hefty chunk of local tourism, too," he says.

THREE HUNDRED steps up the temple, 200 steps to redemption

Entertainment in Genting Highlands

While KL should have a lot to offer with its mix of happening bars and street restaurants, the Genting Highlands is the pinnacle of fun and entertainment the family can enjoy.

Just 45 minutes from the city, Genting Highlands, known as the City of Entertainment, offers exhilarating ride attractions for thrill-seekers. There are also fabled rides and gaming for adults.

Where to learn how to fly? Get a boost gramping ride up, downs, upside down while strapped to a rotating contraption... Horizontally... in Flying Cement.

Want to feel snow? Enter the Warren Snow World.

Want to go stoned-cocoon up and be dropped sky-beer soaring like a fat parasol? Space Shot is for you.

Conceptualised as entertainment homes in the 1960s, Genting Highlands is now Asia's leading integrated resort, with six hotels of 10,000 guest rooms. Fully bedded some days, 90 dining experiences, 90 shops, indoor and outdoor theme parks including 10 clubs and casino gaming.

The resort operates the largest cable car rails in South-east Asia – a 3.38-km ride from midhill Awhaung Jaya to High-lands Hotel peak.

History in Malacca

A trip to Malacca is a charming walk through history. With the resort's architecture of Portuguese influenced by the Dutch, the Peranakan and the British, a lazy stroll around town drops in an experience.

Wherever, for instance, are notably larger than doors. A guide explains that wooden top-part people must have based on how large their loan doors were. Bigger doors meant more goods entered the home, hence, bigger sums.

As people are always creative in altering their area around us, pleasure attractions, windows were crafted so that people brought into the house had to go through doors inverted.

One of the most visited spots in the resort town is the nine-storey called the Tower of the East, with its post on the houses of Malacca, the owner of spice trade in the region then.

Most cars are the Buddhists, Christ Church, St. Paul's Church and the 1511 Portuguese-built Albuquerque fortress. Quaint antique stores, art galleries, souvenir shops and cafés are an antidote to Urabaya being Asian.

Culture in Penang

A photo ride away is Penang, one of three islands comprising Malaysia's Pearl of the Orient, in 285 sq km. Penang, for over 300 years, was under British colonial rule until 1957, and is known as part of the Federation of Malaya.

Home of shoe cobbler Jimmy Choo and actress Michelle Yeoh, it is the city to go to for culture and heritage. The finest Buddhist temple in Southeast Asia, for instance, is located atop Ayer Itam hill.

It takes about 30-40 min to trek from the foot of the hill to the temple. Named Kek Lok Si Temple, it took over 20 years to build. Its features the Pagoda of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

Historical buildings line the streets of Penang, including the City Hall, its architecture reflecting the influence of the British Empire; the Singhson Ka George Church, built by convicts in 1818; the 60-ft Victoria Memorial Clock Tower; Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, at 18th and 19th century Chinese architecture, honored as the Most Excellent Project by the Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation; the well-preserved Chinatown; Little India, with its 147-year-old Sri Mariamman Temple; and the cafe lorners at Weld Quay, attracting tourists who were searching different.

Adventure in Sabah

Adventure, adrenaline rush and touch fun can be had in Sabah, one of Malaysia's top spots for eco-adventure tourism and fun becoming Southeast Asia's destination for extreme sports adventure. Its mountain parks all make its region, it is a one-stop destination.

The botanical paradise in Mt Kinabalu Park, rising 13,455 ft above sea level, is one of the world's most prominent mountains. Low Knee Wildlife Park, both ecological and historical, will soon be ideal for family adventure trips with its infusion of a children's zoo.

The Abdul Rahman Marine Park, a cluster of six islets a 20-minute speedboat ride away from Kota Kinabalu, a perfect for diving.

There's a hot spring, too, Poring Hot Spring, believed to have therapeutic effects on muscle tension and aches. Poring has a canopy walk, an orchid park, a nature resort, a breathtaking canopy walkway.

While nature-wipping, don't forget to try the famous fish massage spa. Yes, its the fish nibble on the dead skin – a massage that's completely unique.

Uncomfortable with the idea? Then go jungle trekking, camping, or do a river cruise on Klias wetlands.

The Malaysia Mega Festival (www.mega.my) was sponsored by tourism Malaysia and Malaysia Airlines. Affordable tour packages are available, starting at RM 2,000 (inclusive of round-trip airfare, hotels and food accommodation until it subject).

Call Malaysia Mega Festival at 4260602 or 03 and 7883133/37 and Mohd Zaid Gani at 4000000 to 2.0 and 3237500 for more info.

ART SCULPTURE in Malacca

World Press Photo Exhibit Roadshow Begins At The Podium On August 1

Malaysians in Shah's exercise walk will once more have the rare opportunity to view some of the world's most moving photos when the international award-winning World Press Photo Exhibition goes on view from August 1 – 31, 2007.

Each year, an independent jury consisting of thirteen members judges entries in the different categories, submitted by photojournalists, agencies, newspapers, magazines from all corners of the world. This year's exhibition showcases the winners' 2006 photographs from 124 countries as told by 26,208 images taken entered for the contest.

The exhibit, which features 156 photographs, is an annual public showcase for photojournalists who are curators of this year's winning shots, together with award-winning images from each of the six contest categories. The high quality of photojournalism featured is considered to set a standard in the field.

This year, it will be shown this year at about 100 venues all over the world, and in the Philippines, the World Press Photo Exhibition will open at The Podium from August 1-31. It was preceded by "The Moon at the City, World Cities" from August 3-14, and shows across SM Mall of Asia on August 15-26.

The Philippines will be a joint partnership of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Ateneo de Manila University, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Canadian Philippines, and The Podium. SM City North EDSA, and the SM Mall of Asia.

The organizers of the exhibition is defining Malaysia's winning photos as "a mixture of sad and elegant, of shocking and beautiful, of violent and elegant, and of the image that dramatically captures the global kaleidoscope of life. It takes Hadrian Robert Klein of the Copenhagen Post's photo of a man running a home in Chernobyl, Chile, on March 26 (Image of the Year), Bangladeshi photographer Pablo Bartholomew got local permission as a precaution as many homes have been vandalized or occupied by squatters and looters.

Any shot takes only three years. "The strength of the pictures is in the opposites. It's a double sentence. It tells like a classic conflict photograph, but as it unfolds the emotion changes from a threat following hindrances," Tim adds," the jury agreed that good journalism is photography as a process, and not just about one photograph alone. The image is an intrinsic one. A new kind of war, a war of asymmetrical, hide-and-seek to invade our lives and our homes."

World Press Photo is an independent non-profit organization based in Amsterdam, where World Press Photo was founded in 1955. Its main aim is to support and promote international the work of professional press photographers. Over the years, World Press Photo has become into an independent platform for journalism and free exchange of information.

In order to realize its objectives, World Press Photo organizes the world's largest and most prestigious annual press photography contest, and additional projects and also an international exhibition of prize-winning photographs. Seminars and workshops for professional photographers, photo editors, and picture editors are organized in various countries around the world.

This is the second year in a row that the Philippine Daily Inquirer has been selected for the exhibition in Manila. This is an ongoing commitment to promote excellence in photojournalism by the Ateneo de Manila University, the Embassy of the Netherlands and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Last year, while the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands supports it with an exhibition as the venue of World Press Photo.

Ateneo, an Anglo-Dutch group of companies, through the centrally-situated

2ND PRIZE People in the News Stories by Tullio Zbalbo, 2006. Rumor's Prisons for Time. Michelle Wiener-Lopez on her bedroom floor in Guatemala with cocaine and white-crumbling scenes. Olivia Marcipolo is

WORLD Press Photo of the Year 2006 by Anthony Suau, USA, for Time. Following gunfire, Darfur, Sudan. Robert Kuk of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office with a bomb in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 28, following a report of a bomb. Investigators and

1ST PRIZE Daily Life Stories by Brenda Ann Kennedy, USA. The Bun Fite. Shein-Jun Lo is a single mother with seven children, four of whom live with her at home in Tres Pinos, California. Shein-Jun supports her family by working in a convenience store at a nearby gas station. Shein-Jun Lo shares the moments when they are together with their mother.

1ST PRIZE Sports Stories by Vincent Laforet, USA, for Newsweek. Sumiyoshi is the man's semblance of the 10 metre sandbox diving competition at the Beijing Olympic Stadia in August. Jose Antonio Guerra Mitra (Cuba).

1ST PRIZE Nature Stories by Steve Winter, USA, National Geographic Magazine. Steve Jungle-fit is the Indian Himalayan area of Ladakh, seven among a herd using remotely operated camera traps.

up in 2001, and its continued support for World Press Photo since the company's mission of supporting the arts and culture in the countries where it operates. Three of the previous SM malls: The Podium, The Block at SM City North EDSA, another SM Mall of Asia, meanwhile, and hopes to provide the widest area since is using this accessible exhibit to take millions of customers.

Expect more than World Press Photo Exhibit on August 1 to 31 The Podium. August 3 to 14: The Moon at SM City North EDSA, and on August 15-26 at the SM Mall of Asia. It is open to the public and free of charge.

Travel Briefs

SEAIR extends lowest fares to Catician

Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAIR) is extending its promo for the lowest fares to Boracay (Caticlan). Travelers can fly to the beach destination for as low as 1268.50 or. To take of the promo, passengers have to purchase their tickets online at www.flyseair.com until Oct. 31.

The Boracay experience is further enhanced with SEAIR's special service advantages for Caticlan-bound passengers. Travelers enjoy complimentary transfers from the Caticlan airport to Boracay Beach and vice versa, the shortest queues and express lanes, the limited baggage charges and exclusive boarding pass privileges to partners available, more in Boracay and Manila. SEAIR offers the fastest flights to Boracay (only 35 minutes). SEAIR has also recently launched SEAIR Travel Care, for a small additional fee, passengers are assured of a worry-free travel experience as SEAIR Travel Care provides travel insurance coverage for baggage losses or damages and other travel inconveniences. It is available online at www.flyseair.com. SEAIR Travel Care is powered by Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc. (PGAI), the "best insurer for 2006," according to the Euromoney Insurance Survey. SEAIR now flies directly from Manila to El Nido twice a week and five times weekly to Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao, Cebu in August. SEAIR's website is www.flyseair.com. tel. 8450 0100.

Animal theme park

Zoobic Safari in Subic Freeport Zone, boasts of unique attractions: Tiger Safari, Crocodile Encounter, Savannah, Aviary, Bat, Komodo Dragon, Reptile World, Big Hop Bay at sea, Sanctuary Inn, Zoobic Pool and Zoobic Resort. The highlight of the two-hour tour of the park is Tiger Safari, where guests ride on a jeepney filled with their group. The jeepney goes around an area where tigers roam freely. Every weekend and on holidays, Zoobic Safari stages an animal show and parade. Zoobic Safari is open daily, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Its address is Group 1 Baloy Forest, Freeport Area of Subic, Subic Bay Freeport; tel. 8000804/ 8951146; www.zoobic.com.ph.

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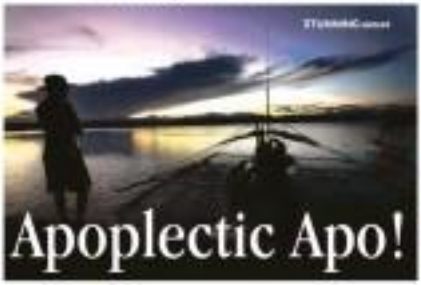
Apoplectic Apo!

By Tanya Tristan Hong
Contributor



OUR 6:30 A.M. FLIGHT TO SAN Jose, Occidental Mindoro was cancelled and moved to an afternoon schedule and the bugbitten hosts at the terminal's waiting area were spent ribbon-raided up in one corner to get some much needed shuteye or nibbling on landlord junk. But the weather was sunny despite the forecasts of low pressure areas and we refused to let the midday dampers our spirits! After all, it's no ordinary place that we were off to... it's Apo Reef!

Apo Reef is considered a world-class dive destination, and has earned the reputation of being one of the best to date. The lush coral growth spans around 34 sq km, making it the largest atoll-like reef in the country. It is second only to the Great Barrier Reef in terms of size.

Apo Reef is home to diverse species of marine flora and fauna, including the pawikan. It is also a sanctuary for sharks, mantas and stingrays.

After a 3-hour rough road ride from San Jose to Sablayan, we hopped on a pump boat that ferried us to Apo Island, the largest among the three islands in Apo Reef. The white-sand island has a shallow lagoon encircling a mangrove forest that serves as a nursery and spawning ground for numerous coastal and marine animals, including several species of birds. There is a pair of small cabs that will take you on a social route while floating from one end to the other. A quick tour would bring you to the best lighthouse north of the island. The climb up is not for the faint of heart, but brewing your fears will reward you with a breathtaking 360° view of the island once you reach the top. The site also offers a stunning view of the setting sun.

FLUFFY. Reggie, Marie, Bok, Ayie and Patrick at Apo Reef, May 23-27, 2009

Consider yourself out of reach from civilization as you will find no cell phone signal, no electricity and no freshwater. Luckily there are comfort rooms. A single light from the solar panels illuminates the campsite. Meals are cooked in a "Survivor" style, so make sure you bring someone who knows how to prepare a decent meal.

Aside from snorkeling and diving, you wouldn't find a lot of things to do on the island. "Manicures?" comes to mind. Its to count some of the scent, however, it is precisely this which makes the island so inviting...the gift of solace and peace/isolation from the busy world.

Come night time, the deep blue sky becomes a vast, unfathomable canopy peppered with millions of twinkling stars as countless as the grains of sand beneath our feet. It was completely silent save for our portable radio-pulsing up Malaysian and Chinese music and the crackle of burning wood while we roasted marshmallows over a bonfire on the beach.

On our fourth day, we were off on Pandan Island for more diving and exploring. The island has a cozy resort that serves good meals on the shore! It really does nigh the small haven west of the island will lead you to two secluded beaches, Wild Lagoon and Spanish Shoal. Both worth taking the time to explore. We were supposed to stay a bit longer in Pandan but "because of the flight mishap during the first day, we had to shave it down to one day.

Five days were just enough to erase all boats, though, we would have stayed longer, given the chance. We all were back to Manila feeling sunkissed and relaxed but more than satisfied communing with nature. We were grateful for being blessed with this opportunity.

For posterity's sake, we made up for the unused *nito hours of our lives, not only did the airline give us food allowance for the day, we also got free round-trip tickets to anywhere in Luzon. Here's to more adventures!*

ENJOY activities like snorkeling and diving.

THE INDOOR canals of The Venetian

Pool with as much salt as Dead Sea, snow room—Macau still surprises

Text and photos by Bianca Cuenca
Contributor

IF YOU'VE TIRED OF SHOPPING TRIPS to Hong Kong and want an experience something new, you might want to take a detour to Macau. While the former Portuguese colony earned its notoriety as a gambling and shopping destination, it has since developed into a family-friendly destination.

But don't take the Las Vegas comparison lightly—somewhere, the two places look eerily alike, and we don't mean the neon lights. Big-name hotels from the original Sin City can be found in Macau, with gaming havens such as the MGM Grand, Grand Lisboa, Wynn and The Venetian. Even if you don't like cards or slot machines, there's a lot to do in the themed hotels and resorts. The Venetian has famous retail brands and shows such as Cirque du Soleil's Zaia (a breathtaking aerial show that melds gymnastics and ballet). There's also a gondola ride, which comes with a singing gondolier—striped shirt and red scarf included.

There are free shows in St. Mark's square, also starring Filipino performers in Italian costumes and with swanky outfits. While The Venetian's offerings often border on over-the-top kitsch, it's difficult to not smile and have a photo taken by the simulated Venetian scenery, anyway.

If you enjoy Venetian, drop by the Macau Fisherman's Wharf, a family-oriented theme park that offers a wide variety of restaurants and shops, the Fisherman's Wharf's main attraction is its amusement park—it includes replicas of Rome's Colosseum (with gladiators brandishing plastic swords at the door), a giant volcano and a Middle Eastern village—great for snapping photos with family and friends.

Sky Walk

Another thing you might want to try out with friends is the Sky Walk at Macau Tower. For people who want to try something extreme without the gut-busting feeling of bungee jumping, "Sky Walking" is the answer. The tower has a transparent walkway which can be strapped to the tower, so slightly less adventurous souls can stroll around the tower at 233 meters (safely tethered, of course). You can also do regular bungee jumping or simply take in the sights from a safe distance from atop the tower.

If it's relaxation you're after, try out a day in the spa at MGM Grand. Probably the most extravagant spa in Macau, the MGM Six Senses Spa has a variety of exotic treatments. Just how exotic is exotic? The spa has a "Dead Sea" Room specifically that contains just so much salt as the Dead Sea, supposedly good for the skin, and a snow room where you can sit in chilly splendor as flakes of snow settle on you. Judasch will supposedly give the same benefits as lounging into a cold plunge pool in a regular spa).

For culture buffs

However, while an evening adventure of extreme sports and theme parks may be great for large families, not everyone may want to spend their time in Macau lounging around their residences or Venetian landscapes. Instead, culture buffs can head straight to the ruins of St. Paul. All that remains of the church is its façade, as a fire destroyed the rest of it in the 19th century. It doesn't make the historic World Heritage site any less picturesque, though.

For more sights, head on to Senado Square, a human-yellow cluster of buildings which boasts ancient architecture and restaurants. The cobblestone-lined streets also lead to narrow alleys full of vendors selling roasted chestnuts, cold drinks, clothes and souvenirs, so spare a couple of hours for this busy square.

Should all the walking make you hungry, go on to Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro—with windows enticingly elevating pieces of bodacious meat for you to sample, you probably wouldn't even need to buy anything to munch on, but take home some to Manila, instead. Or walk tea and munch on egg tarts as you walk around Macau.

Speaking of egg tarts, it's impossible to talk about Macau without mentioning Lord Stow's. While Lord Stow's has been around in Manila for years, you should give the Macau variety a try—there is a very subtle difference. A mixture of cream and eggs baked on a flaky crust, Lord Stow's Macanese egg tarts are a regional specialty that should not be missed. Located on Coloane Island, the original store might be a little out of the way, but call them up to deliver a few boxes to the airport—a pasalubong your family and friends will surely gobble up in no time.

E-mail the author at bianca.cuenca@inq7.net.

THE BUTTON FELLOW Senado Square

IMPOSING gold statue greets visitors at The Venetian

COLORED property charms on sale in touristy local stalls

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Willie unperturbed by petition

WAS Bonifacio just a victim of "terminal communication problem"? Hermack may say his outburst was "taken out of context."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AN ONLINE PETITION TO BAN WILLIE REVILLME from television has been initiated by viewers Reed C. Ingalog, who addressed his protests to the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) (MTRCB) and Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA).

The signature campaign was sparked by the TV host's outburst over the interview of homeys from former president Corazon Aquino's funeral cortege on his noontime variety show "Showtime."

At press time, the petition has chalked up 11,978 supporters since going online on Wednesday.

On Monday, Revillame got upset after a video of the Aquino motorcade from La Salle Green Hills to Manila Cathedral was inserted in the game show.

The petition contained a full transcript of his on-air tirade, which read in part: "Payasito kami nagpapatawa!" Inilolo, rapist kami . . . Pagbabayan ng showbusiness siya ang gusto n'yong gawin? (What can we do here but clown around? We're rapists? We're kidding.) . . . After the show, you can see what you want to see."

Inappropriate

In an exclusive phone interview with Inquirer Entertainment, Revillame explained that he felt it inappropriate to show the motorcade scenes on the noontime show.

VALE 11

Controversial TV host irked: *'Konting bagay, pinapalaki'*

Nine Inch Nails still a formidable force

By Butch Sideck
Contributor

TRENT Reznor not one for onstage small talk.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 12 years after it came to life, Nine Inch Nails finally got to perform on our shores. The iconoclastic provocateur for independent rather than alternative music shattered Ophelia'ns and held at the Araneta Coliseum, was amazing and proved that, while many bands often flame out too soon, NIN remains as formidable a sonic force as when it achieved its commercial peak in the 1990s.

Credit mainly goes to NIN's (pun 44-year-old frontman-singer-songwriter-multi-instrumentalist, Trent Reznor. Upon founding NIN, Reznor wound up playing all but one of the drums on the album, and this Prince-like, one-man army wrote, edited, produced and mastered his record-company overnight.

His fondness for the edgier feelings of us we saw at the Big Dome. Sporting close-cropped hair, black shirt, black leather pants and flaunting a body build worthy of a UFC fighter, Reznor clicked on one hell of a frenzied, floor-pounding performance, not with sheer robust muscles (four if we count the sinewy, excitable dude who played the processed beats and improvised efforts on certain tunes).

The show, part of NIN's ongoing "Wave Goodbye" tour, has become a yearlong engagement that Reznor says could be the band's final tour as he can concentrate on more recordings and other ventures. The over-the-top, stumbling Manila is not one for onstage small talk, his rare attempts at humor seem to spray that drummer Dan Rubin "had his own Michael Jackson music video," referring to the Brit dead of city are over the drain ish.

It was good that Reznor decided to play much of NIN's heavier canon to save instead of, say, concentrating on the contents of 2005's "The Slip."

Delighted loud fans reveled in the ear-splitting renditions of their heads banging as they screamed along to songs like "Somewhere I Belong," "Terrible Lie," "Hyperpower," "Burn," "Closer," "Reptile," "The Hand That Feeds" and "Head Like a Hole," as well as "Echoplex."

While that set list was technically a sampling of pretty much every NIN album, it was moreover a worthy representation of both Reznor's industrial-meets-pop sound suggestive, ear-thrusting noise with a rhythmic, even chorus-verse template and lyrical oddities that ... to topic ... words tool ... and authority ... and ... and the musical ... of doom and desperation that, while less controversial by now, remains thought-provoking ... and not for impressionable minds.

Coincidentally, as Reznor was winding down with "Hurt," where he sings, "Everyone I have gone away to the end," Cory Aquino was being laid to rest.

Even if the Inexcusable publicized videos of NIN's gigs, these do not compare to witnessing live in your face intensity of Reznor, guitarist Robin Finck, bassist Justin Meldal-Johnsen and drummer Rubin (who all took turns on keyboard duties as well). It helped that the lighting effects (crazed shots from the video walls of NIN shoot-overs) just were so furious and massive as the music. But it was the band and its crisp, voluminous noise that truly enveloped the capacious audience.

As Reznor himself put it to one of the gig's best moments, after playing the anthemic "March of the Pigs": Nice, doesn't that make you feel free?"

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The night of music and dance pays tribute to the real stars of the foundation's existence—its donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries.

Joining the celebration are Pinoy Pop rock group Kamikazee, Filipino-American singer Jason Dy, Filipino-Australian singer Jessa Zaragoza, Filipino-Canadian singer Jay Durias, Filipino-Japanese singer Aiza Seguerra, Filipino-Spanish singer Jed Madela, Filipino-Chinese singer Kyla, Filipino-Chinese singer Regine Velasquez, Filipino-Chinese singer Sharon Cuneta, Filipino-Chinese singer Kris Aquino, Filipino-Chinese singer Kris Lawrence, Filipino-Chinese singer Kris Lawrence, Filipino-Chinese singer Kris Lawrence

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5 THE PROPOSAL
6 G.I. JOE
7 Isnilalbox: HANDUMANAN
8 OMG: OH MY GIRL / LAST VIEWING
9 LITTLE BOY BIG BOY
10 HARRY POTTER 6

ERMITA

1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 G.I. JOE
4 HARRY POTTER 6
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 ORPHAN / LITTLE BOY BIG BOY
7 RESERVE

METRO EAST

1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 MY SISTER'S KEEPER
4 G.I. JOE
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 HARRY POTTER 6
7 ORPHAN
8 OMG: OH MY GIRL

NOVALICHES

1 G.I. JOE
2 LITTLE BOY BIG BOY
3 ORPHAN
4 HARRY POTTER 6

PIONEER

1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 HARRY POTTER 6

STA. ROSA

1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 IT'S ALIVE
4 OMG: OH MY GIRL

LIPA

1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE AMUSEMENT
4 OMG: OH MY GIRL

DASMARINAS

1 ORPHAN
2 IT'S ALIVE
3 OMG: OH MY GIRL
4 G.I. JOE

IMUS

1 IT'S ALIVE
2 OMG: OH MY GIRL
3 G.I. JOE
4 ORPHAN

STARMILLS

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2 OMG: OH MY GIRL
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4 IT'S ALIVE
5 G.I. JOE
6 G.I. JOE

ANGELES

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2 IT'S ALIVE
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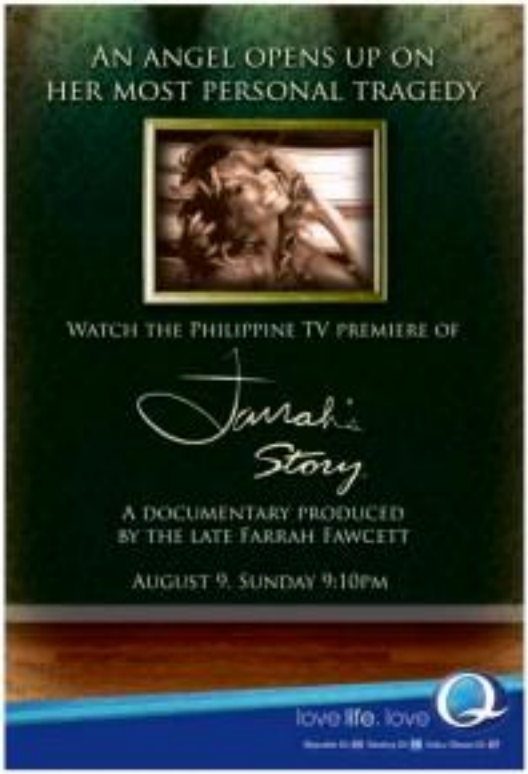
TEKKEN TOURNEY
Video game fans of all ages trooped to SM Megamall recently to watch the Tekken 6 Bloodline Rebellion Tournament 2009. Sixty-four players competed in Sudden Death matches, which Nhor Balbuena, 2008 champ, won again. Top officers of Tekken and its developer, Namco—Yuta Fujishige, Katsuhiro Harada and Hajime Nakasumi—flew in from Japan for the event.



Standout portrayals

THIS YEAR'S CINEMALAYA FILM FEST carries down a good record, indicating that viewers find their "indie" films relevant and making both interesting and compelling. During the festival last month, we caught "Colorum" by Jon Sistilio Ballesteros and found it a good showcase for some standout performances.

"Colorum" is unique because it shows that "accidents" are never accidental. Its dramatic shift functioning whereby, to initially borrow on a young cop (Alfred Vargas) who works part time as a public transport driver.

At first, everything seems to be above board in his life and circumstances. Little by little, however, we notice that everything is not as it's supposed to be. Not one thing, the cop isn't a true blue as he thinks he is. He leans too much on his wrong, who lures manipulates him one month when the film introduces its main conflict.

When the story takes this radical turn, the cop is forced to contend with a complication that involves a teenager (played by Lou Veloso), an old man who turns out to be just released from prison.

Forced to take the ex-convict "prisoner" After witnessing a crime, the young cop at first treats him badly as he goes on an extended road trip to escape the long arm of the law.

Later, however, prisoner and captor are able to overcome their differences and become—would you believe?—friends.

In fact, at film's end, they become more than that, "shocking" viewers to the realization that things really are not what they initially seem, as we should be more open to its many unexpected possibilities.

Aside from this stunning cinematic realization, "Colorum" is also an acting showcase. Both Vargas and Veloso do well in their challenging roles, but it's Veloso who has a stronger impact on viewers, because his portrayal of an old man at the end of his hopes and prospects is exceptionally moving and executed. Known more popularly for his comedic performances, Veloso shows here that he's an exceptional dramatic actor as well.

In addition, "Colorum" showcases the similarly exceptional portrayal of **Jose Mari Avellana** as a junior constituted by a senior guilt. Another compelling character is a pregnant young woman whose life choices and decisions are dramatically affected by her similarly "accidental" decision to hitch a ride in the cop's vehicle.

Thus does the film introduce its theme about things never being what they initially appear to be. The view of life it affords us (and the movie's lead characters but also its casual players, inviting viewers to similarly reconsider the "accidents" in their own lives.

At times, the film's long road trip appears to be going around in circles, as it occasionally feels too circumscribed and repetitive. On the whole, however, "Colorum" takes viewers on a bracing and thematically rewarding trip, with patent insights revealed and shared at its startling conclusion.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Mobile game

Gameloft's Terminator salvation mobile game is now available by downloading from 444.gameloft.com. The game (id M4) reproduces the movie's universe in post-apocalyptic Los Angeles. It has two playable characters, John Connor and Marcus Wright, each having his own strengths and special abilities.

THE LATE musician Susan Fernandez (top) was given a tribute by friends including Noel Cabangon and Cookie Chua (right).

Singing for sweet Susan

By Philbido Concepcion

LIZA CORY AQUINO, SUSAN FERNANDEZ and Ryan Cayabyab are Filipino. If Cory restored democracy to the country, Susan lent a sweet sound to social consciousness through her music. They passed away a month apart.

Last week, a small crowd gathered to celebrate Susan's life and times at Jimmy's Grill restaurant on Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

It would've been Susan's 52nd birthday; friends and family mounted a live gig with some of the most talented acts in the local music scene.

Five hours

The lineup included young bands and poets. But the main idea was for Susan's contemporaries to interpret the songs she recorded in her independently produced "Hubli at Himig," a sensitive, empowering and beautifully sung album released in 1986...when the alternative rock scene was about to break out.

In the early part of the five-hour presentation, the mood was festive as the all-percussion ensemble Brigada banged away with rumbling, tribal beats.

Virgilio Almario, a.k.a. Rio Alma, 2003 National Artist for Literature, said he wanted to write a happy poem for Susan but couldn't. Instead, he delivered verses that expressed regret at her untimely demise amid troubled times.

Love, passion

The native group Bagong Dayo mainstayed for two members who couldn't make it. Bodgy Tanseco, Jose Mercado reggaefied the high notes of The Jackson 5's "In One Small Way" A Tagalog rendition of Rhinito Rippenton's "Loving You" (translated by Rolando Tinio as "Ang Ka") saved the day.

Lester Demetillo and sister Becky B. Abraham—Susan's comrades at UP Diliman's Sikl music community whose members performed to pre-Edsa rallies—interpreted "Mundo ng Bata" and "Langoy-Langoyan" from "Hubli." The duo's traditional, Jacobean style heightened the poetic musings on freedom.

Then followed a lovely succession of performances that evoked love and passion, hallmarks of Susan's work. Cooky Chua, with Susan's brother Dodjie Fernandez on acoustic guitar, jokingly complained that "Pahatiyat Ka, Sking Sayuni" (original Cebuano lyrics translated by Susan's husband Ann Stiglitz) was difficult to sing. Yet whatever mistakes she made were hardly noticed; she excited her rendition with emotional fire.

REVIEW

Noel Cabangon, ad-libbing that his sonsible's longer Susan's "absenceber/mad ness," did "Batang Kalye" (lyrics by Bil Mariano, music by Susan); what stood out was the song's haunting line, "Upuning walang pace." Marlec, flustered because she had only a minute-and-a-half to prepare, nevertheless shone in her jazzy, jazz take on "Bahay Ka."

More poetry

The rest of the performances—from the heartfelt "Dalagita ni Hilot" (Bagong Kamalayan), the indignant "Sarisi ng Sakbayan" (Chelsey Pena), the inspiring "Sisi Ko" (Jose Ayala), the stirring "Kaimanyang" (a reunited Bituing, led by Susan's sis-in-law Ujong and a few of the group's children), to more poetry and other good original stuff (the songs of Sexyadio's Vic Sotto, Kabuy Sergio and Noisy Boy Jesse Santos). Six hours of goodness—felt so hankering to hear Susan again. We just had to buy a CD release of "Hubli" before heading home.

ENTERTAINMENT

Model-actress and mom now an indie producer

MISSE Raddia and her 14-year-old daughter, Issa

NEW YORK—THERE WAS never a dull moment during our dinner with Renée Raddia—model, "reyna ng mga bading," loving mom, actress, Brazilian Carnaval Queen, and now, film producer—in her Park Avenue apartment.

Renée and her youngest daughter Issa, 14, drove from their main home in Connecticut to Manhattan on a rainy summer evening in New York. The apartment, which has a great view of the Empire State Building, is tastefully decorated with Asian antiques.

Over a yummy feast of shake shake, we talked about her relocation then and now.

Hmmm... Renée's other daughter with her late husband Harold del Castillo, is in London while Issa, her stepdaughter (Bambi's child with actress Hilda Koronel), now lives in Canada. "Hindi sila nagsama sa Adelaide then and now.

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ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rodney J. Nepales

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Model-actress and mom is now an indie producer

From page 1

in the water for eight hours. They were real tempered. I can't imagine what Hidden would have done. If I'd have them as any point, stopping the shoot—maybe shown me?

How are the kids featured in "Bassoey Bahid Boys" now? Some friends are reminded of the plight of the kid actors in "Slumdog Millionaire."

Rainier was brilliant to cast real life bahid boys. We were lucky to find 15 boys with raw talent. Madjoe Galaxie (Jinoy) registers well on the camera and his facial expressions alone can tell a story. He is truly a gem. The three second lead boys gave him the best acting support...all were very well picked by Jackie to be their bahid-ate/banmates.

The plight of the bahid boys and the kids in "Slumdog Millionaire" is universal. There is hope even in the darkest depths of poverty. "Slumdog" also used real "slumdogs" for the role of the young brothers and their girlfriend. I think no actor can portray a better "slumdog" or a better "bahid boy" than the real-life children who know the true meaning of what it was for them and, through their daily experiences, know how to overcome hunger, and even death, by sheer will to live and survive. My co-producer, Albert Mendoza, felt he needed to do more for the bahid boys after the shoot. With the help of his show mates, Sun Bada, he set up scholarship fund for them.

What are you looking forward to as you attend several international film festivals featuring "Bahid Boys"?

I am looking forward to attending all the international film festivals that "Bahid Boys" will be competing in. So far, we've been asked to compete in three ... After "Bahid" won Cinemalaysia's Unique Best Picture, I'm sure more invitations will continue to pour in.

Tell us about the animated film, "Fly Aswang," which you are also co-producing. How did you get involved in the project?

"Fly Aswang" is an all-Filipino animation movie which I conceptualized and put together with Creative Media Philippines. Since Mentos set up Gerald Creative Media (Philippines) as "production office" for work of local animation and another local animation, Gerald is now producing documentaries and indie films as well. I wrote "Aswang" some 17 years ago for my Brain at the Building Institute for Children's Writers here in Connecticut. I am a published children's author. I also write for Studio Dining Magazine, USA.

During one of my summer visits to Manila, Jaime Mascon mentioned the problem that our local animation go through—how they are outsourced by big companies and are not properly compensated. Then he said, jokingly, "Bo, you could do the kids' disc studio of Ari Prize Ani, Mina Caligula, and talked about a project. "Dreaming," the original title, was born from "Bonta-Aswang," because I used my own life pattern as the basis of the story—a widow with three daughters. All four of us have supernatural powers that we use against evil forces. My thought of making a TV series for the story line unfolded, we decided to make it into a full-length animation.

Speaking of your daughters, how are they?

My daughters, my pride and joy! Isabel, 28, graduated from College of the Holy Cross (in Worcester,Mass) and is now working in Vancouver, Canada. Bianca, 22, graduated cum laude also from Holy Cross and is in London taking her master's degree at Christie's Art Institute. She is practicing the accent with them already! Gabriella Rose Guadalupe, 14, graduated with honors and was one of only six new students accepted for high school to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich. I am so proud and relieved they are not rowdy like me!

Will "Aswang" highlight the ex-

MEEEE! Basilio with three of the "Bassoey Boys," including Madjoe "Jinoy" Galvez, left

sellout animation talents in the Philippines?

Thanks to the pilas...our artists are the best! The world of animation is aware of the Pinoy animators being the best, from Disney to even Japanese Hentai (post-science). Pinoy artists do all the work and yet their names are never mentioned in the credits. It's time that they are recognized and given proper credits, not to mention professional-level pay. Some to one person who quietly works for the betterment of Filipino arts and culture. I salute that for her dedication and hard work.

What are your next projects or a film greatness?

I am looking forward to the completion of "Queen B," a documentary produced by the late brand-and-wife team of Nick Bevins and Lyra Bevins Stoney (creator of "Barbie"). This is a documentary on my being the first Filipino to become Carnaval Queen in Brazil. The docu will show behind-the-scenes footage of how a country endorses a trade...but that is now a popular world event. It was such an honor to be invited and be accepted by Brazilians as their Carnaval Queen. Right now, I'm the Carnaval Queen, a prime title for 2008 and I was invited once again for both Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro the following year.

If resources and talents were not a problem and you can make any movie you like, what would those projects be?

My dreams would be to work with Quentin Tarantino. His lenses on the subject of Pinoy supernatural beings, especially the aswang, is truly an inspiration. I would like to continue his work in collaboration with Jim Wise Collagen (the way one of the three co-writers of "Fly Aswang" with Rose and me). Of course, I dream for the films to be done entirely in the Philippines and using only Pinoy talents.

What are some of the common misperceptions about you?

As down-to-earth and funny as I really am, I'm surprised that some people think that I am a society girl who is mean and disliked! I'm not. Thanks to Jose Javier Reyes, who created my title of a snarky fashion writer named Tita Beauty. I remember calling everyone Tita on the set, including the late Johnny Pillanes! I am still thrilled when I hear Pinoys addressing each other as Tita, knowing it was something coined after my character in "Eh Kasi, Bebot," the number one sitcom in the early '90s.

A lot of people also think I am a homosexual. Seriously, my love and admiration for all my gay friends run deep. I am lucky to be close to some of the funniest and most talented gay artists in the world. Without them, I wouldn't be a totally without on this planet. I think my love for the "unknown" gender has made me the deserving owner of the title, "Bayan ng mga Bading."

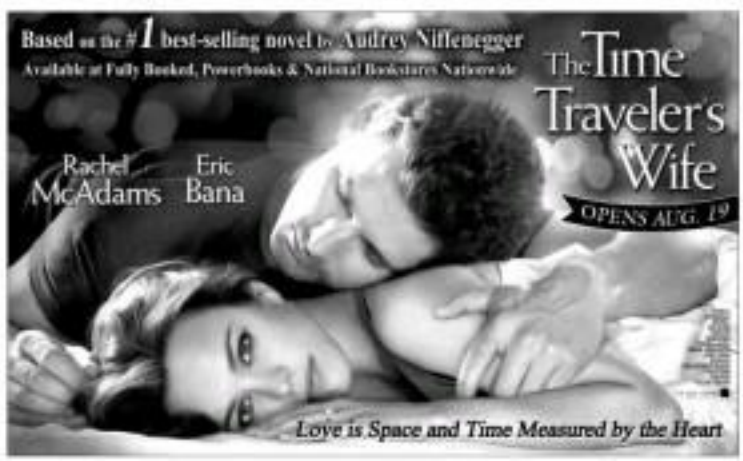
Do you take acting?

I terrible roles being in front of the camera. I tend to many scripts but I am typecast as a rich, snobby girl who is mean and shallow. Please give me a goulish role. I know it is impossible, as Gina Pareño, Eugenia, Jeffrey Jetturian and a slew of journalists have told me time and again, but I refuse to listen. I want to be challenged. I'm ready for some serious roles!

As a model, what were your most memorable experiences?

1983, Russia—The Black Democratic member by Aaron Abrams. I

Distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, Philippines



"I will be 51 on Sept. 11. I have lived a colorful half-century, yet I have many more plans to fulfill"

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Sleeping Beauty and a cruel stepsister

BACK TO THE BOOTY SHAKE. The first of a five-episode TV special shows Nina Santos in a grand production number (above) reminiscent of her dance routines in "Vilma," her long-running show in the 1980s. "Vilma: A Woman for all Seasons TV Special" airs Saturday evenings after "Maalala Mo Kaya" on ABS-CBN.

NETWORK PEOPLE AVOID working with Popular Star like the plague.

There have always been rumors of her prima donna ways, but there's also an account that she always arrives 30 minutes before call time. Problem is, she would then bring out her cot and sleep for three hours.

Upon waking, she'd have lunch and then have her makeup done—for another four hours.

Also, the cameras couldn't start grinding only then, eight hours late.

Cruel stepsister

At least, PS is reportedly "nice" as co-workers, but genius Star, PS' colleague in the same TV network, is notorious for her cruelty.

At least she's an equal-opportunity villainess, mean to everyone—from production assistants to directors.

ES reportedly quarrelled with at least two directors who were subsequently exiled from the network because she's "chummy" with the Powers That Be. Is, she's chummy.

Major makeover

Pretty Star is insecure about Older Sister, the acknowledged beauty in the family.

So ugly duckling as a kid, PS allegedly had a major cosmetic surgery because she wanted to look like OS, said a mole. PS also had her skin bleached to perfection, as far as flawless as OS.

Kissing, not dating

The denial came swiftly.

Cristine Reyes was reportedly spotted on a date with John Lloyd Cruz in a

RUSHES SUNDAY

'IDOL' IDLE. With Paula Abdul's departure as "American Idol" judge, pop singers Katy Perry, former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham and other female artists will be guest judges on the reality show this upcoming season.

wakeboarding trip along Bacnotan. She explained that they just accidentally bumped into each other at the bar.

"He was with his friends and I was with my own barkada," Cristine insisted. "Nag-hello lang kami and went back to our respective groups." OK.

Freudian slip

Network Honcho made a very telling Freudian slip in describing Laura production. Said:

"All progressively said that her station was "installing and reinstalling" foreign favorites to entertain local masses.

Trivial pursuit puts you?

Blame jet lag

At a major film festival in Europe, Vilma Santos stunned the orbicular of astronomers and Bethlehem Architecture: "The film 'TBC' looks interesting. It scored lots of venues, ha?"

The poor Ate didn't have the heart to tell VS that TBC wasn't a movie, but stood "To Be Confirmed."

Jet lag, one BA surmised.

Abdul talks closed

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA—Not nearly shunned the door on Paula Abdul's return to "American Idol"—but not quite.

"We made an offer we feel was very fair to Paula" that included a substantial raise, Fox Entertainment chair Peter Rice told the Television Critics Association on Thursday. But she decided against returning for the ninth season, he said.

The offer is for a multi-year, eight-figure deal that represents a 50 percent increase for Abdul, according to a person familiar with the talks, but who asked not to be identified. "My understanding is that her only issue is money," Rice said.

Female pop stars will serve as guest judges for the seven-week auditions process that begins Friday in Denver, with Victoria Beckham and Katy Perry the first to be announced by Fox.

Original judges Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson are returning, which starts new January, and will be joined for a second year by Kara DioGuardi.

Cowell's contract expires after the season and Fox is talking to him about returning, Rice said. AP

Top of the tabloids

KRISTINE Hermosa.

The top show biz stories in the tabloid headlines this week. (And why we are mused, if we are mused.)

• Lucy Torres: Alyho bacon sa 'ko this year! (That's my order!)

• Ricky Welch, Edu Manzano: sadu nang pero... kon sa kat'sat? (Sure type?)

• Kristine Hermosa, Jericho Rosales: nagbalikan, nagkalimutan. (Make type?)

• Cristine Reyes: pinaiiwas sa cheesecake si Dennis Trillo. (She's not the first one, ha?)

• Bayani Agbayani: Hindi ko nagingirlfriend si Sarah Geronimo! (Well, exclusion pala?)

• Gerald Anderson: coming-out sa Kuya Kim! (Okay! (Mich.)

• Ruby Ruiz: mom-to-be Kris Aquino. (She's two years old, give him a break.)

• Marian Rivera: pregnancy si Dingdong Dantes. (Sana, and vice-versa.)

• Ang ang-ang-ang ni Sam Milby—Ming (Domino Pamplona (Bongga ito Ting!)

• Willie Revillame nag-sorry kay Kris. (Super late.)

• Bata' ungabi si Claudine Barretto kay Pinky Pascual? (Or vice versa?)

• Ara Alonzo nagsuka dahil kay John Lloyd Cruz. (Blogsick!)

E-mail us: rusher@inquirer.com.ph